News United States Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics Washington, D.C. 20212

USDL: 79-76

Eugene H. Becker (202) 523-1858
Kathryn Hoyle (202) 523-1913

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. E.S.T.
Monday, January 29, 1979

WORK STOPPAGES, 1978

Idleness due to labor-management disputes in 1978 was 0.18 percent of estimated working time (1.8 working days idle per thousand), according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor.

The 4,300 work stoppages and the 1.6 million workers involved in these stoppages, were down compared with 1977. But two long strikes helped bring the total days of idleness to 39 million in 1978, up more than 3 million over 1977 and the highest since 1974. The two major stoppages, the bituminous coal strike of 1977-78 and the mid-year railroad strike, accounted for close to a third of all days lost due to strikes.

Strikes in 1978 reached their lowest levels since 1965 and workers involved their lowest levels since 1963. (See table 1.) Two factors partially explain these low totals: 1978 was a light bargaining year with relatively few major contract expirations or reopenings compared with the 2 previous years; and, the length and severity of the bituminous coal strike apparently reduced the number of coal stoppages occurring during the term of the contract. Strikes in the mining industry dropped from 999 in 1977 to an estimated 267 in 1978. About half of this decline occurred in the first quarter of the year, corresponding to the period of the bituminous coal strike.

Eleven major work stoppages (those involving 10,000 workers or more) occurred in 1978, seven fewer than in 1977. However, about 10,000 more workers were involved in these stoppages in 1978 than in 1977, but there were less than half the number of days idle during 1978 compared with 1977 resulting from these stoppages.

The coal and railroad strikes strongly influenced work stoppage data (table 2) during several months. January, February, and March, each with more than 4 million days of idleness, included the coal strike; and September, also with over 4 million days lost, included the railroad dispute. December, with less than 1.5 million days of idleness, had the lowest idleness rate (0.08 percent of estimated working time) for the year and was markedly lower than in 1977 when the comparable figures were 5 million days idle and 0.28 percent of working time.

Characteristics of Work Stoppages

The direction of principal work stoppage measures by industry varied between 1977 and 1978 (table 4). A higher proportion of workers in nonmanufacturing struck in 1978 than in 1977, reflecting the year's two major disputes in mining and transportation. At the same time, there was a higher proportion of strikes in manufacturing in 1978 compared with 1977, 51 percent and 46 percent, respectively.

The greatest proportion of stoppages (65 percent) was called over general wage changes (table 5). Although there were relatively more of these disputes in 1978 than in 1977, the proportions of workers involved was about the same, 45 percent compared with 44 percent, while days idle were 10 percentage points higher in 1978 than in 1977.

As in past years, the greatest concentration of labor disputes involved 20-99 workers (table 6). The relatively few major stoppages involving 10,000 workers or more accounted for 34 percent of all strikers and 36 percent of all days idle.

In 1978 and 1977, the duration of stoppages (table 7) varied widely. However, in both years there was a concentration in the 7 to 59 day brackets. Slightly more than half of the stoppages in 1977 fell within this range, but in 1978 two-thirds did so. Stoppages of 15 to 29 days accounted for the greatest proportion of strikers in 1977 (19 percent), whereas workers who struck in 1978 were concentrated in disputes lasting 60 to 89 days (23 percent). In 1977, walkouts in effect for at least 90 days were responsible for 35 percent of all days idle. In 1978, 51 percent of all days idle were due to strikes that lasted 90 days and over.

BLS data cover work stoppages involving 6 or more workers and lasting a full day or shift or longer. The data do not measure indirect or a secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 1. Work stoppages in the United States, 1947-78 1/

(Workers and days idle in thousands)

Year	Work stoppages	Workers involved	Days idle during month	
	Number	Number	Number	Percent of est. total working time 2/
1947	3,693	2,170	34,600	.30
1948	3,419	1,960	34,100	.28
1949	3,606	3,030	50,500	.44
1950	4,843	2,410	33,800	.33
1951	4,737	2,220	22,900	.18
1952	5,117	3,540	59,100	.48
1953	5,091	2,400	28,300	.22
1954	3,468	1,530	22,600	.18
1955	4,320	2,650	28,200	.22
1956	3,825	1,900	33,100	.24
1957	3,673	1,390	16,500	.12
1958	3,694	2,060	23,900	.18
1959	3,708	1,880	69,000	.50
1960	3,333	1,320	19,100	.14
1961	3,367	1,450	16,300	.11
1962	3,614	1,230	18,600	.13
1963	3,362	941	16,100	.11
1964	3,655	1,640	22,900	.15
1965	3,963	1,550	23,300	.15
1966	4,405	1,960	25,400	.15
1967	4,595	2,870	42,100	.25
1968	5,045	2,649	49,018	.28
1969	5,700	2,481	42,869	.24
1970	5,716	3,305	66,414	.37
1971	5,138	3,280	47,589	.26
1972	5,010	1,714	27,066	.15
1973	5,353	2,251	27,948	.14
1974	6,074	2,778	47,991	.24
1975	5,031	1,746	31,237	.16
1976	5,648	2,420	37,859	.19
1977	5,506	2,040	35,822	.17
1978p	4,300	1,600	39,000	.18

1/ The number of stoppages and workers relate to those stoppages that began in the year. Days of idleness include all stoppages in effect. Workers are counted more than once if they were involved in more than 1 stoppage during the year.

Available information for earlier periods appears in the Handbook of Labor Statistics, 1975 Reference Edition, BLS Bulletin 1865 (1975), Tables 159-64. For a discussion of the procedures involved in the collection and compilation of work stoppage statistics, see BLS Handbook of Methods for Survey and Studies, BLS Bulletin 1910 (1976), Chapter 27.

2/ Agricultural and government employees are included in the total employed and total working time; private household, forestry, and fishery employees are excluded. An explanation of the measurement of idleness as a percentage of the total time worked is found in "Total Economy Measure of Strike Idleness," Monthly Labor Review, Oct. 1968.

NOTE: p = preliminary.

Table 2. Work stoppages by month, 1977-78.
(Workers and days idle in thousands)

Month	Work stoppages	Workers involved	Days idle during month	
	Number	Number	Number	Percent of est. total working time
1977				
January	384	105	1,297	.08
February	375	145	1,475	.10
March	522	205	2,410	.13
April	602	184	2,519	.15
May	689	256	3,323	.19
June	599	158	2,973	.16
July	493	199	3,212	.19
August	481	200	3,995	.21
September	485	152	3,085	.17
October	408	157	3,347	.21
November	335	80	3,158	.18
December	133	200	5,029	.28
1978 1/				
January	217	62	5,286	.30
February	247	45	4,802	.30
March	287	90	4,842	.25
April	395	118	2,097	.12
May	484	130	2,670	.14
June	475	114	2,579	.13
July	467	177	3,074	.18
August	439	198	3,714	.18
September	453	448	4,446	.25
October	389	106	2,277	.12
November	290	63	1,776	.10
December	157	49	1,440	.08

1/ Preliminary revision.

NOTE: Due to rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals on table 1.

Table 3. Work stoppages involving 10,000 workers or more, beginning in 1978 1/

Company	Location	Unions(s) 2/	Beginning Date	Ending Date	Workers Involved 3/	Days Idle 3/
Norfolk & Western Railroad	Interstate	BRASC	7/10	9/29	330,000 4/	2,448,000 5/
Retail Grocery Stores	Southern California	RCIU	8/19	8/24	55,000	222,000
Bituminous Coal Contractors	Interstate	UMW (Ind.)	3/25	4/4	34,700	146,000 5/
T.V. Commercial Advertisers and Producers	Interstate	SAG, AFTRA	12/19	-	25,000	200,000
Board of Education	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	AFT	9/1	9/6	20,000	60,000
City of Philadelphia	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania	AFSCME	7/14	7/21	19,600	118,000
General Electric Co.	Louisville, Kentucky	IAM	4/26	6/24	15,000	77,000 5/
New York Shipping Assoc.	New York, New York	ILA	8/25	8/25	11,000	11,000
New York City Newspapers	New York, New York	PGCU, IAM, TNG	8/9	11/5	10,500	615,000 5/
Nursing Home Association	New York, New York	SEIU	4/4	4/7	10,000	40,000
Construction Industry	Honolulu, Hawaii	LIUNA	1/23	1/31	10,000	70,000
			Total (11 stoppages):		540,800	4,007,000

1/ Preliminary.

2/ The unions are affiliated with the AFL-CIO unless noted as Independent (Ind.).

3/ Workers involved are rounded to the nearest hundred; days idle, to the nearest thousand.

4/ The railway clerks extended the stoppage on 9/26 to 43 lines, and on 9/27 to all 73 lines that are members of the railroad mutual aid pact. On 9/28, President Carter ordered a 60-day cooling off period and established a 3-member emergency factfinding board, as provided by the Railway Labor Act. On 9/29, a temporary restraining order was issued, directing all strikers to return to work.

5/ Staggered idleness.

Table 4. Percent distribution of work stoppages by industry, 1977-78 1/

Industry	Work stoppages		Workers involved		Days idle	
	1977	1987p	1977	1978p	1977	1978p
All industries 2/-------	100	100	100	100	100	100
Manufacturing 2/------	46	51	39	35	51	42
Ordnance and accessories-	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
Food and kindred products--------------	4	4	3	2	4	1
Tobacco manufactures----	3/	3/	3/	3/	1	3/
Textile mill products---	1	1	3/	1	3/	1
Apparel 4/-------------	1	1	1	3/	1	3/
Lumber and wood products, except furniture------	1	2	1	1	1	1
Furniture and fixtures--	2	2	1	1	1	1
Paper and allied products--------------	2	2	1	2	2	4
Printing, publishing, and allied industries-	1	2	1	2	1	2
Chemical and allied products--------------	2	3	1	1	2	2
Petroleum refining and related industries----	3/	1	3/	3/	1	3/
Rubber and miscellaneous plastics products-----	2	2	1	3	1	1
Leather and leather products--------------	3/	3/	3/	3/	1	3/
Stone, clay, and glass products--------------	3	3	2	1	3	1
Primary metal industries------------	4	4	4	3	6	5
Fabricated metal products 5/-----------	6	9	3	4	4	5
Machinery, except electrical------------	8	7	7	5	9	6
Electrical machinery, equipment, and supplies--------------	4	5	4	5	3	3
Transportation equipment-----------------	4	4	9	5	12	7
Instruments, etc. 6/----	1	1	3/	1	1	1
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries-----	1	1	1	3/	1	3/

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 4. Percent distribution of work stoppages by industry, 1977-78 1/--continued

Industry	Work stoppages		Workers involved		Days idle	
	1977	1987p	1977	1978p	1977	1978p
Nonmanufacturing 2/---	54	49	61	65	49	58
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries---------	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
Mining-----------------	18	6	33	7	20	26
Contract construction---	9	9	11	10	9	5
Transportation, communication, electric, gas, and sanitary services--------------	6	7	3	25	6	11
Wholesale and retail trade-----------------	9	11	4	7	6	8
Finance, insurance, and real estate-----------	3/	1	3/	1	3/	1
Services----------------	5	6	2	3	3	3
Government 7/-----------	8	10	8	11	5	5

1/ The number of stoppages and workers involved relate to disputes that began in the period, days of idleness to all stoppages in effect.

2/ The number of stoppages reported for a division may not equal the sum of its components because individual stoppages occurring in two or more groups have been counted in each. Workers and days idle have been allocated among the respective groups.

3/ Less than 0.5 percent.

4/ Includes other finished products made from fabrics and similar materials.

5/ Excludes ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment.

6/ Includes professional, scientific, and controlling instruments; photographic and optical goods; watches and clocks.

7/ The situations reported here have, for statistical purposes, been deemed to fall within the Bureau's definition of a work stoppage. This decision does not constitute a legal determination that a work stoppage has taken place in violation of any law or public policy.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Dash (-) denotes zero.

P = preliminary.

Table 5. Percent distribution of work stoppages by major issue, 1977-78 1/

Major issue	Work stoppages		Workers involved		Days idle	
	1977	1978p	1977	1978p	1977	1978p
All issues-------	100	100	100	100	100	100
General Wage changes----	57	65	44	45	61	51
Supplementary benefits--	1	2	1	1	1	1
Wage adjustments--------	3	3	3	2	5	2
Hours of work-----------	2/	1	2/	2/	2/	1
Other contractual matters----------------	5	3	4	3	4	4
Union organization and security--------------	5	5	2	2	3	2
Job security------------	4	3	5	31	5	7
Plant administration----	18	13	34	11	20	34
Other working conditions------------	3	2	3	2	1	1
Interunion or intraunion matters---------------	5	3	4	3	1	1

1/ The number of stoppages and workers involved relate to disputes that began in the period, days idle to all stoppages in effect.

2/ Less than 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

p = preliminary.

Table 6. Percent distribution of work stoppages by size, 1977-78 1/

Number of workers involved	Work stoppages 1977	Work stoppages 1978p	Workers involved 1977	Workers involved 1978p	Days idle 1977	Days idle 1978p
All stoppages--------	100	100	100	100	100	100
6 - 19------------------	13	15	2/	1	1	1
20 - 99-----------------	39	38	5	5	6	5
100 - 249---------------	23	23	10	10	11	10
250 - 499---------------	13	13	12	12	11	10
500 - 999---------------	7	6	13	11	12	11
1,000 - 4,999-----------	5	4	24	21	24	21
5,000 - 9,999-----------	1	2/	9	6	8	7
10,000 and over----------	2/	2/	26	34	28	36

1/ The number of stoppages and workers involved relate to disputes that began in the period, days idle to all stoppages in effect.

2/ Less than 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

p = preliminary.

Table 7. Percent distribution of work stoppages by duration, 1977-78 1/

Duration	Stoppages ending in period					
	Number		Workers involved		Days idle	
	1977	1978p	1977	1978p	1977	1978p
All stoppages----	100	100	100	100	100	100
1 day------------------	13	7	9	5	1	2/
2 - 3 days-------------	11	7	10	5	1	1
4 - 6 days-------------	10	9	11	12	2	2
7 - 14 days------------	18	18	17	16	6	5
15 - 29 days-----------	18	20	19	11	15	8
30 - 59 days-----------	16	28	18	15	24	19
60 - 89 days-----------	6	5	7	23	16	15
90 days and over-------	8	6	10	14	36	51

1/ Data refer to all stoppages ending during the period.
2/ Less than 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

p = preliminary.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

FIRST CLASS MAIL

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
LAB - 441

U.S. MAIL

61820LABOF504EAA J313 1
INSTITUTE OF LABOR
& INDUSTRIAL REL. LIBRARY
504 E. ARMORY
CHAMPAIGN, ILLIONIS 61820

News United States Department of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics Washington, D.C. 20212

Bureau of Labor Statistics

Marcy Freedman (202) 523-1091
Kathryn Hoyle (202) 523-1913

USDL: 78-1049

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. E.S.T.
Friday, December 29,1978

WORK STOPPAGES, NOVEMBER 1978

Idleness due to labor-management disputes dropped to its lowest November level since 1975 and was more than a million days less than in November 1977, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor.

The Bureau's preliminary estimates show 1.9 million days of strike idleness in November, or 0.11 percent of estimated working time (1.1 days idle per thousand), down 333,000 days since October. The number of stoppages and the number of workers involved were also below those of the previous month. (See table 1.)

There was only one large (5,000 workers or more) dispute during the month. This dispute, which began in August, involved the paper workers and the Crown Zellerbach Corporation. The bulk of the November idleness resulted from relatively small disputes. (See table 2.)

Data for 1978 so far show fewer strikes and fewer workers than in recent years, reflecting in part a light bargaining year and considerably fewer strikes in the mining industry. However, because of the large coal dispute earlier in the year, there have been more days of idleness in 1978 than in recent years.

Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods to November, 1978

Period	Number of stoppages: Beginning in month or year	Number of stoppages: In effect during month	Workers involved in stoppages: Beginning in month or year (thousands)	Workers involved in stoppages: In effect during month (thousands)	Days idle, in effect during month or year: Number (thousands)	Days idle, in effect during month or year: Percent of estimated working time
First 11 Months						
1968 ----	4,862	5,031	2,585	2,673	47,325	.29
1969 ----	5,504	5,673	2,431	2,510	38,988	.23
1970 ----	5,492	5,671	2,849	3,048	63,225	.38
1971 ----	4,919	5,150	3,234	3,319	44,480	.27
1972 ----	4,852	5,068	1,678	1,793	26,049	.15
1973 ----	5,144	5,305	2,160	2,225	24,813	.14
1974 ----	5,891	6,085	2,674	2,737	45,312	.25
1975 ----	4,792	5,033	1,660	1,705	29,383	.16
1976 ----	5,400	5,674	2,345	2,404	36,400	.20
1977 ----	5,373	5,638	1,840	1,894	30,792	.16
1/1978 ----	4,643	4,766	1,475	1,707	36,798	.18
November						
1968 ----	327	617	130	306	2,431	.17
1969 ----	324	611	131	368	4,308	.31
1970 ----	340	695	84	552	7,798	.54
1971 ----	315	562	235	453	5,034	.33
1972 ----	327	595	85	202	1,351	.08
1973 ----	350	671	230	351	3,026	.18
1974 ----	353	742	251	352	3,807	.24
1975 ----	300	656	63	143	1,737	.11
1976 ----	452	861	201	326	2,391	.14
1977 January	384	649	105	158	1,297	.08
February	375	645	145	198	1,475	.10
March	522	816	205	285	2,410	.13
April	602	931	184	274	2,519	.15
May	689	1,070	256	366	3,323	.19
June	599	1,035	159	296	2,973	.16
July	493	946	199	307	3,212	.19
August	481	930	200	335	3,995	.21
September	485	923	152	278	3,085	.17
October	408	822	157	290	3,347	.21
November	335	719	80	233	3,158	.18
December	133	485	200	308	5,029	.28
1978 1/ January	271	394	87	318	4,689	.26
February	267	449	70	329	4,221	.26
March	349	527	126	367	4,290	.22
April	460	670	132	190	2,055	.12
May	568	835	171	307	3,072	.16
June	545	859	130	228	2,724	.14
July	463	810	211	338	2,995	.17
August	435	774	176	333	4,141	.21
September	494	785	160	603	4,421	.25
October	449	775	127	214	2,261	.12
2/ November	342	638	87	199	1,928	.11

[1] Preliminary

2/ The steel haulers strike was not included due to unreliable estimates.

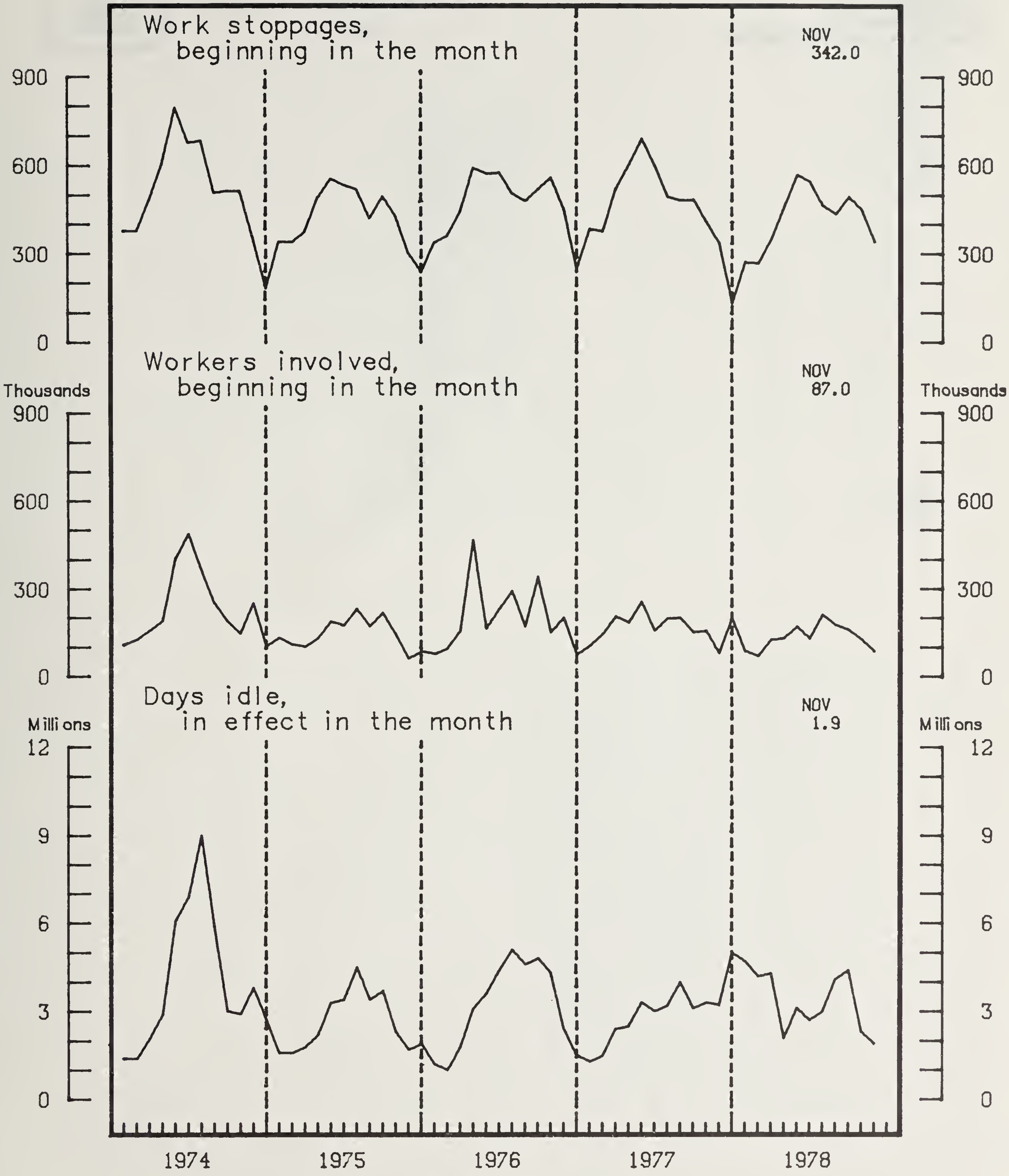
All work stoppages known to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and its various cooperating agencies, involving 6 or more workers and lasting a full day or shift or longer, are included in this table. Figures on "workers involved" and "days idle" cover all workers made idle for as long as one shift in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not measure the indirect or secondary effects on other establishments or industries whose employees are made idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 2. Stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more, November 1978

Company	Union	Began	Ended	Workers involved 1/	Days idle 1/
Crown Zellerbach Corp., Antioch & Los Angeles, Calif. West Linn & Lebanon, Ore., & Port Angeles & Camas, Wash.	WPPW (Ind.)	8/6	-	5,000	100,000
Total, 1 stoppage				5,000	100,000

1/ Preliminary; workers and days idle are rounded to the nearest hundred.

Chart 1. Number of stoppages, workers involved, and days idle, by month. 1974–78



1978 Preliminary.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

FIRST CLASS MAIL

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
LAB - 441

U.S. MAIL

Institute of Labor 313
& Industrial Rel. Library
504 E. Armory
Champaign, Illionis 61820

News United States
Department
of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics Washington, D.C. 20212

Bureau of Labor Statistics

E. Becker (202)523-1858
K. Hoyle (202)523-1913
Home: (202)333-1384

USDL: 78-983

For Release: 10:00 A.M. E.S.T.
Thursday, November 30, 1978

WORK STOPPAGES: OCTOBER 1978 AND A 9-MONTH SUMMARY OF SELECTED CHARACTERISTICS

Idleness due to labor-management disputes dropped to its lowest October level since 1972, reaching the same rate as in April of this year, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today.

The Bureau's preliminary estimates show 2.3 million days of strike idleness in October, or 0.12 percent of estimated working time (1.2 days idle per thousand), less than half the rate in September. The number of stoppages and the number of workers involved were also below those of the previous month. See table 1.

The generally brighter strike picture for October over September resulted from the termination of the Norfolk and Western Railway strike. Involved in this stoppage were 330,000 workers who contributed 1.7 million days of idleness. The number of work stoppages in effect, 775, was about the same as in August and September, but the number of workers involved in strikes showed a large drop, from over 600,000 in September to 214,000 in October. Some 449 new strikes began during the month, fewer than in September but more than in October 1977.

Large disputes, those involving 5,000 workers or more, accounted for slightly over one-fifth of the workers involved and days of idleness. The New York City newspaper stoppage and the West Coast paper strike, both carryovers from August, together contributed 60 percent of the idleness and 40 percent of the workers involved in these large stoppages. See table 2.

Data for 1978 so far show fewer strikes and fewer workers involved than in recent years, but, because of the long coal dispute earlier in the year, more days of idleness.

Characteristics of work stoppages, first 9 months, of 1977 compared with 1978

The bituminous coal walkout (December 1977-March 1978) accounted for an increase in strike activity in the first 9 months of 1978 over the comparable period in 1977. The 9.8 million work days lost during the 1978 portion of the strike account for much of the increase in nonmanufacturing idleness, as well as idleness accumulated by disputes over plant administration and by disputes involving 10,000 workers or more. Among long strikes (90 days or more), the 25 percentage point rise in all idleness and the 11 percentage point rise in workers on strike between 1977 and 1978, also reflects the impact of the 3½ month stoppage by coal miners.

Other comparisons in the 9-month experience with work stoppages between 1977 and 1978 are: The number of public sector workers, as a proportion of all workers on strike, was higher in 1978 than in 1977; days idle in the construction and non-electrical machinery industries in 1978 are proportionately below those in the same period a year ago; walkouts over general wage changes and proportion of workers involved in these disputes are higher than the comparable 1977, 9-month figures; and stoppages over union security issues held about steady.

BLS data cover work stoppages involving 6 or more workers and lasting a full day or shift or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods to October 1978

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
					In effect during month or year	
	Beginning in month or year	In effect during month	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
First 10 Months						
1968	4,535	4,704	2,455	2,543	44,895	.30
1969	5,180	5,349	2,300	2,379	34,680	.23
1970	5,152	5,331	2,766	2,965	55,427	.36
1971	4,604	4,835	2,999	3,085	39,466	.26
1972	4,525	4,741	1,594	1,708	24,698	.16
1973	4,794	4,955	1,930	1,994	22,787	.14
1974	5,538	5,732	2,423	2,486	41,504	.25
1975	4,492	4,733	1,597	1,643	27,647	.16
1976	4,948	5,222	2,145	2,204	34,007	.20
1/1977	5,038	5,303	1,760	1,814	27,635	.16
2/1978	4,301	4,424	1,389	1,620	34,870	.19
October 1968	434	741	279	415	3,992	.25
1969	531	850	337	421	3,168	.19
1970	448	881	231	754	11,574	.73
1971	304	553	246	326	5,511	.36
1972	395	665	173	277	1,342	.09
1973	523	885	194	297	2,484	.15
1974	513	911	146	267	2,854	.17
1975	426	823	143	246	2,327	.14
1976	559	1,024	152	429	4,348	.28
1977 1/ January	384	649	105	158	1,297	.08
February	375	645	145	198	1,475	.10
March	522	816	205	285	2,410	.13
April	602	931	184	274	2,519	.15
May	689	1,070	256	366	3,323	.19
June	599	1,035	159	296	2,973	.16
July	493	946	199	307	3,212	.19
August	481	930	200	335	3,995	.21
September	485	923	152	278	3,085	.17
October	408	822	157	290	3,347	.21
November	335	719	80	233	3,158	.18
December	133	485	200	308	5,029	.28
1978 2/ January	271	394	87	318	4,689	.26
February	267	449	70	329	4,221	.26
March	349	527	126	367	4,290	.22
April	460	670	132	190	2,055	.12
May	568	835	171	307	3,072	.16
June	545	859	130	228	2,724	.14
July	463	810	211	338	2,995	.17
August	435	774	176	333	4,141	.21
September	494	785	160	603	4,421	.25
October	449	775	127	214	2,261	.12

1/ Revised
2/ Preliminary

All work stoppages known to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and its various cooperating agencies, involving 6 or more workers and lasting a full day or shift or longer, are included in this table. Figures on "workers involved" and "days idle" cover all workers made idle for as long as one shift in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not measure the indirect or secondary effects on other establishments or industries whose employees are made idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 2. Stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more, October 1978

Company	Union 1/	Began	Ended	Workers Involved 2/	Days Idle 2/
Board of Education, Cleveland, Ohio	SEIU,AFT. IBFO	9/7	10/12	10,000	80,000
Publishers Assn. of N.Y. (N.Y. Times & Daily News) New York, N.Y.	PGCU TNG IAM	8/9	11/5	3/9,300	195,000
Crown Zellerbach Corp., Antioch & Los Angeles, Calif., West Linn & Lebanon, Ore., & Port Townsend, Port Angeles, & Camas, Wash.	WPPW (Ind.)	8/6	-	4/7,800	5/111,000
Board of Education, Memphis, Tenn.	NEA (Ind.)	10/10	10/23	6,000	60,000
Bituminous Coal Industries, Western Pa.	UMW (Ind.)	10/17	10/20	5,200	5/15,000
Boise Cascade Corp. Salem & St. Helens, Ore. and Steilacoom, Vancouver & Wallula, Wash.	WPPW (Ind.)	7/20	-	6/5,000	5/44,000
Total, 6 stoppages				43,300	505,000

1/ The unions are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, except where they are noted as independent (Ind.).
2/ Preliminary; workers are rounded to the nearest hundred, days idle to the nearest thousand.
3/ Revised; The New York Post withdrew from joint negotiations on 9/27.
4/ Approximately 2,800 workers at wood products operations who were honoring picket lines returned to work on 10/4.
5/ Staggered idleness.
6/ Approximately 3,200 workers at wood products operations who were honoring picket lines returned to work on 10/4.

Table 3. Percent distribution of work stoppages by industry, 1977-1978 1/

Industry	Work stoppages 1977	Work stoppages 1978p	Workers involved 1977	Workers involved 1978p	Days idle 1977	Days idle 1978p
All industries 2/	100	100	100	100	100	100
Manufacturing 2/	46	52	40	44	53	42
Ordnance and accessories	3/	-	3/	-	3/	-
Food and kindred products	4	4	3	2	5	1
Tobacco manufactures	3/	3/	3/	3/	1	3/
Textile mill products	1	1	3/	1	3/	1
Apparel 4/	1	1	1	3/	1	3/
Lumber and wood products, except furniture	2	2	1	1	1	1
Furniture and fixtures	2	2	1	1	1	1
Paper and allied products	2	3	1	4	1	4
Printing, publishing, and allied industries	1	1	1	2	1	1
Chemical and allied products	2	3	1	1	2	2
Petroleum refining and related industries	1	1	3/	1	1	3/
Rubber and miscellaneous plastics products	2	2	1	2	1	1
Leather and leather products	3/	3/	3/	3/	1	3/
Stone, clay, and glass products	3	4	3	2	3	1
Primary metal industries	4	4	5	3	6	5
Fabricated metal products 5/	6	9	3	5	5	5
Machinery, except electrical	8	7	8	7	11	6
Electrical machinery, equipment, and supplies	4	4	4	6	4	4
Transportation equipment	4	4	7	6	8	8
Instruments, etc. 6/	1	1	1	1	1	1
Miscellaneous manufacturing industries	1	1	1	3/	1	3/

See footnotes at end of table.

Table 3. Percent distribution of work stoppages by industry, 1977-1978 1/--Continued

Industry	Work stoppages 1977	Work stoppages 1978p	Workers involved 1977	Workers involved 1978p	Days idle 1977	Days idle 1978p
Nonmanufacturing	54	48	60	56	47	58
Agriculture, forestry, and fisheries	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/
Mining	19	6	30	9	15	33
Contract construction	9	9	13	13	11	5
Transportation, communication, electric, gas, and sanitary services	5	7	2	5	7	5
Wholesale and retail trade	9	11	5	11	6	8
Finance, insurance, and real estate	3/	1	3/	1	3/	1
Services	4	6	2	3	2	2
Government 7/	7	8	9	14	6	5

1/ The number of stoppages and workers involved relate to disputes that began in the period, days idle to all stoppages in effect.

2/ The number of stoppages reported for a division may not equal the sum of its components because individual stoppages occurring in two or more groups have been counted in each. Workers and days idle have been allocated among the respective groups.

3/ Less than 0.5 percent.

4/ Includes other finished products made from fabrics and similar materials.

5/ Excludes ordnance, machinery, and transportation equipment.

6/ Includes professional, scientific, and controlling instruments; photographic and optical goods; watches and clocks.

7/ The situations reported here, for statistical purposes, have been deemed to fall within the Bureau's definition of a work stoppage. This decision does not constitute a legal determination that a work stoppage has taken place in violation of any law or public policy.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

Dash (-) denotes zero.
p = preliminary.

Table 4. Percent distribution of work stoppages by major issue, 1977-1978 1/

Major Issue	Work stoppages		Workers involved		Days idle	
	1977	1978p	1977	1978p	1977	1978p
All issues	100	100	100	100	100	100
General wage changes	57	67	46	63	64	46
Supplementary benefits	1	1	1	1	1	2/
Wage adjustments	3	3	3	4	4	2
Hours of work	2/	1	2/	1	2/	2/
Other contractual matters	5	3	4	5	5	4
Union organization and security	4	5	2	3	3	2
Job security	4	3	5	6	5	3
Plant administration	18	12	30	14	16	41
Other working conditions	2	1	3	1	1	1
Interunion or intraunion matters	5	3	5	3	1	2/
Not available	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/	3/

1/ The number of stoppages and workers involved relate to disputes that began in the period, days idle to all stoppages in effect.

2/ Less than 0.5 percent.

3/ It is not possible to make a valid comparison between the 2 years because collection of data for 1978 has not been completed.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

p = preliminary.

Table 5. Percent distribution of work stoppages by size, 1977-1978 1/

Number of workers involved	Work stoppages 1977	Work stoppages 1978p	Workers involved 1977	Workers involved 1978p	Days idle 1977	Days idle 1978p
All stoppages	100	100	100	100	100	100
6 - 19	13	15	2/	1	1	2/
20 - 99	38	39	6	6	7	5
100 - 249	23	23	11	12	13	9
250 - 499	13	13	13	14	13	10
500 - 999	7	7	14	15	13	12
1,000 - 4,999	5	4	26	25	28	20
5,000 - 9,999	1	2/	10	7	8	8
10,000 and over	2/	2/	19	20	17	37

1/ The number of stoppages and workers involved relate to those disputes beginning during the period, days idle to all stoppages in effect.

2/ Less than 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

p = preliminary.

Table 6. Percent distribution of work stoppages by duration, 1977-1978 1/

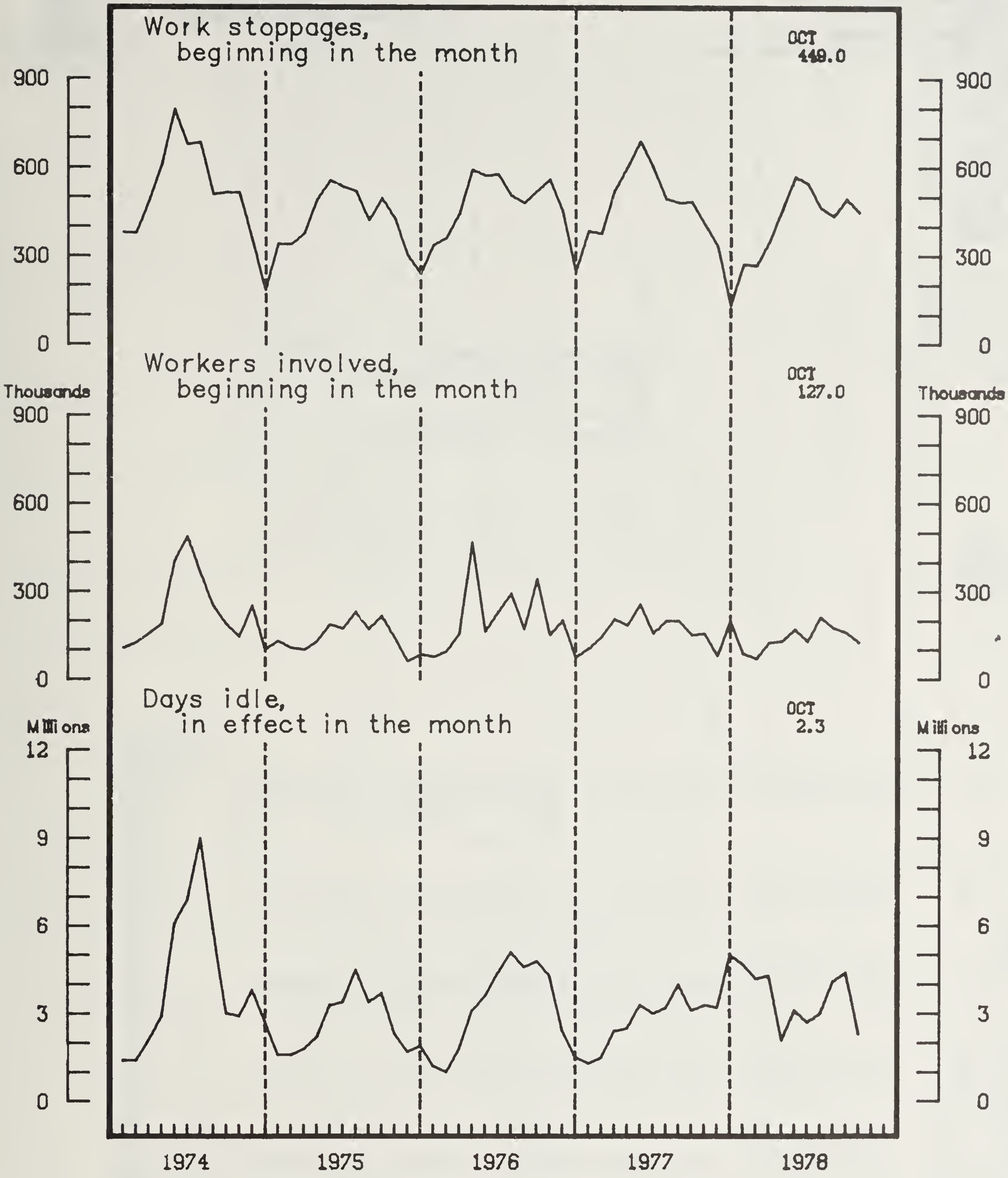
Duration	Stoppages ending in period					
	Number		Workers involved		Days idle	
	1977	1978p	1977	1978p	1977	1978p
All stoppages	100	100	100	100	100	100
1 day	14	7	10	5	1	2/
2 - 3 days	12	6	11	6	1	1
4 - 6 days	10	8	12	13	3	2
7 - 14 days	18	18	17	19	7	5
15 - 29 days	19	20	20	13	18	7
30 - 59 days	16	29	16	20	24	21
60 - 89 days	6	5	5	4	13	7
90 days and over	6	6	9	20	33	58

1/ Data refer to all stoppages ending during the period.
2/ Less than 0.5 percent.

NOTE: Because of rounding, sums of individual items may not equal totals.

p = preliminary.

Chart 1. Number of stoppages, workers involved, and days idle, by month. 1974–78



1978 Preliminary.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210

FIRST CLASS MAIL

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
LAB - 441

U.S. MAIL

Institute of Labor 313
& Industrial Rel. Library
504 E. Armory
Champaign, Illinois 61820

News United States Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics Washington, D.C. 20212

Bureau of Labor Statistics

M. Freedman (202) 523-1091
K. Hoyle (202) 523-1913
Home: (202) 333-1384

UDSL - 78-892

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. E.S.T.
Monday, October 30, 1978

WORK STOPPAGES, FIRST 9 MONTHS 1978

Idleness due to labor-management disputes in the first 9 months of 1978 was at its highest level since 1974, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. The 9-month figure reached a level of 32.6 million days, or 0.20 percent of estimated working time (2.0 days idle per thousand), due mostly to the first-quarter bituminous coal strike and the third-quarter railway dispute (table 1). However, two other measures of work stoppages activity--number of stoppages and workers involved--were lower than comparable figures in the recent past.

Of the 1.5 million workers involved in stoppages during the first 9 months of 1978, about 160,000 were bituminous coal miners and 330,000 were railroad employees. The latter included 20,000 Norfolk and Western Railway employees who struck in July; the rest were railroad workers who honored picket lines set up by the N & W employees. There were 3,975 strikes in the first 9 months of 1978, considerably fewer than the 4,895 in 1977.

Most measures of strike activity in September were higher than in August or July, and the percent of estimated working time lost due to strikes, at 0.25 percent, reached about the same level as at the beginning of the year.

Large disputes, those involving 5,000 workers or more, accounted for about 64 percent of the workers involved and 52 percent of the idleness in September (table 2).

BLS data cover work stoppages involving six workers or more and lasting a full day or shift or longer. The data do not measure indirect or secondary effects on establishments or industries whose employees are idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods to September 1978

Period		Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
						In effect during month or year	
		Beginning in month or year	In effect during month	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
First 9 Months							
	1968	4,101	4,270	2,176	2,264	40,093	.21
	1969	4,649	4,818	1,963	2,042	31,513	.23
	1970	4,704	4,883	2,535	2,733	43,853	.32
	1971	4,300	4,531	2,754	2,839	33,936	.25
	1972	4,130	4,346	1,421	1,536	23,356	.17
	1973	4,271	4,432	1,736	1,801	20,303	.14
	1974	5,025	5,219	2,278	2,340	38,650	.26
	1975	4,066	4,307	1,453	1,499	25,320	.17
	1976	4,389	4,663	1,993	2,052	29,659	.19
	1/ 1977	4,630	4,895	1,603	1,657	24,288	.17
	2/ 1978	3,852	3,975	1,262	1,494	32,608	.20
September	1968	448	738	170	349	3,081	.22
	1969	554	904	186	275	2,193	.15
	1970	560	971	591	785	8,670	.57
	1971	352	670	111	330	3,230	.21
	1972	444	733	143	260	2,403	.16
	1973	541	883	269	368	2,954	.20
	1974	514	910	188	395	3,028	.19
	1975	495	907	217	372	3,684	.22
	1976	521	972	340	466	4,848	.28
1977 1/	January	384	649	105	158	1,297	.08
	February	375	645	145	198	1,475	.10
	March	522	816	205	285	2,410	.13
	April	602	931	184	274	2,519	.15
	May	689	1,070	256	366	3,323	.19
	June	599	1,035	159	296	2,973	.16
	July	493	946	199	307	3,212	.19
	August	481	930	200	335	3,995	.21
	September	485	923	152	278	3,085	.17
	October	408	822	157	290	3,347	.21
	November	335	719	80	233	3,158	.18
	December	133	485	200	308	5,029	.28
1978 2/	January	271	394	87	318	4,689	.26
	February	267	449	70	329	4,221	.26
	March	349	527	126	367	4,290	.22
	April	460	670	132	190	2,055	.12
	May	568	835	171	307	3,072	.16
	June	545	859	130	228	2,724	.14
	July	463	810	211	338	2,995	.17
	August	435	774	176	333	4,141	.21
	September	494	785	160	603	4,421	.25

1/ Revised
2/ Preliminary

All work stoppages known to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and its various cooperating agencies, involving 6 or more workers and lasting a full day or shift or longer, are included in this table. Figures on "workers involved" and "days idle" cover all workers made idle for as long as one shift in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not measure the indirect or secondary effects on other establishments or industries whose employees are made idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 2. Stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more, September 1978

Company	Union 1/	Began	Ended	Workers involved 2/	Days idle 2/
Norfolk & Western Railway, Interstate	BRASC	7/10	9/29	330,000 3/	1,700,000 4/
Board of Education, Philadelphia, Pa.	AFT	9/1	9/7	21,000	84,000
Board of Education, Cleveland, Ohio	AFT, SEIU, IBFO	9/7	-	10,000	170,000
Crown Zellerbach Corp., Antioch & Los Angeles, Calif., West Linn & Lebanon, Ore., & Port Townsend, Port Angeles, & Camas, Wash.	WPPW (Ind.)	8/6	-	7,800 5/	106,000 4/
Publishers Association of New York, (N.Y. Times & Daily News), New York, New York	PGCU, IAM, TNG	8/9	-	8,500 6/	170,000
Construction Industry, Peoria, Illinois	BBF	9/11	9/22	8,000	80,000
Construction Industry, New York, New York	IUOE, WWML, IBT (Ind.)	7/1	9/22	7/	7/
Construction Industry, Southern Illinois	LIUNA, IUOE, CJA	8/1	9/22	8/	8/
Total 6 stoppages				385,300	2,310,000

1/ The unions are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, except where they are noted as independent (Ind.).

2/ Preliminary; workers and days idle are rounded to the nearest hundred.

3/ Railway clerks extended the stoppage on 9/26 to 43 lines and on 9/27 to all 73 lines that are members of the railroad mutual aid pact.

4/ Staggered idleness.

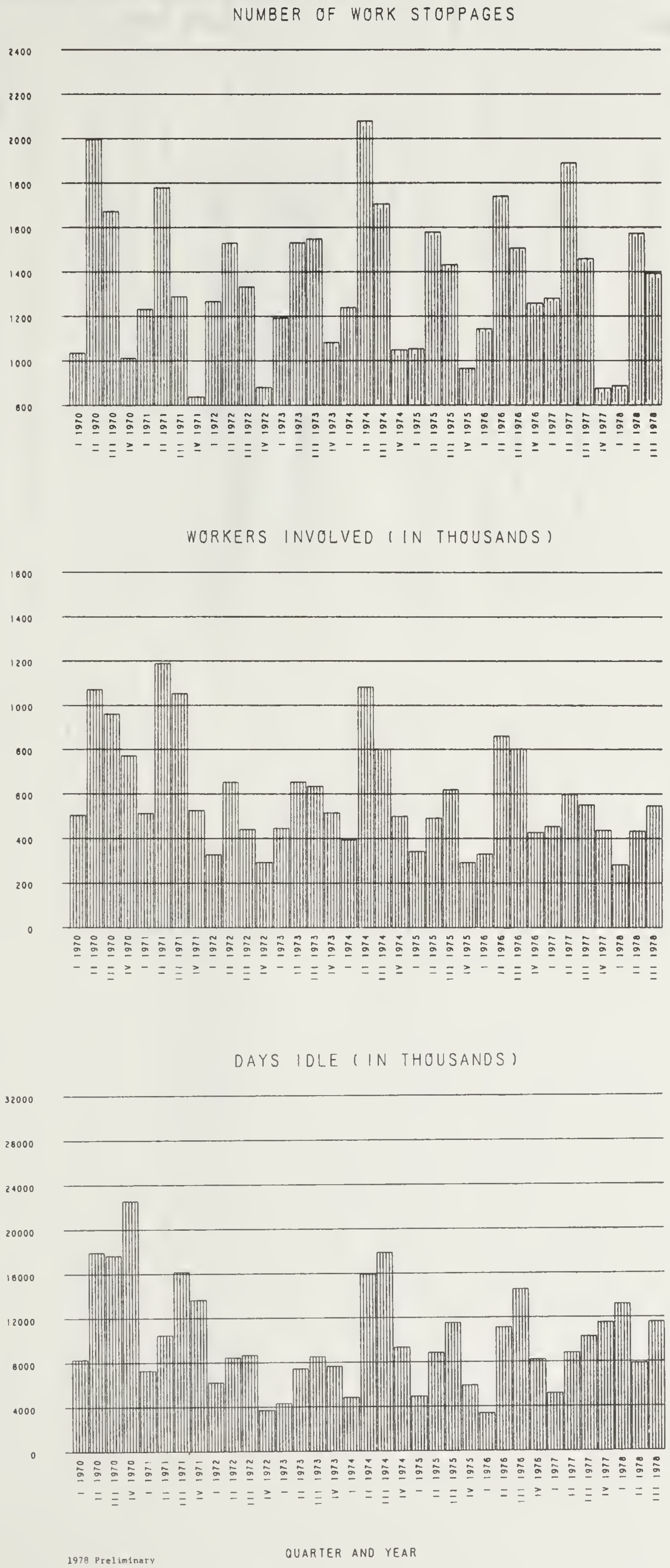
5/ Striking workers set up picket lines at various locations that were honored by other workers.

6/ The New York Post withdrew from joint negotiations on 9/27.

7/ Several units went back to work at the end of August.

8/ Workers who honored LIUNA picket lines returned to work prior to the settlement.

Work stoppages by quarter, 1970-78



1978 Preliminary

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

FIRST CLASS MAIL

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
LAB - 441

U.S. MAIL

Institute of Labor 313
& Industrial Rel. Library
504 E. Armory
Champaign, Illionis 61820

News United States Department of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics Washington, D.C. 20212

USDL: 78-737

C. Janus (202) 523-1755
K. Hoyle (202) 523-1913
Home: 333-1384

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. E.D.T.
Monday, August 28, 1978

WORK STOPPAGES: JULY 1978

Idleness due to work stoppages in July was 0.17 percent of estimated working time (1.7 working days idle per thousand), according to preliminary estimates by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor. Strike-induced idleness was at the lowest July rate in 14 years, although it was higher than in any month since the bituminous coal strike ended in March.

Idleness for the first 7 months of 1978 averaged 0.19 percent of estimated working time, after generally moving down since its most recent high in 1974.

Total Stoppages in July

- An estimated 810 stoppages were in effect during July, the lowest July total since 1972 when wages and prices were under controls.
- Some 338,000 workers participated in stoppages during the month, an increase over the last 3 months.
- Labor-management disputes resulted in about 3 million days off the job in July, about the same as in 1973 but otherwise the lowest number of days idle for this month since 1964.
- Stoppages averaged 417 workers per walkout in July, higher than that recorded for the previous month.
- Average strike duration moved down to 8.9 days in July. This trend has continued since February, except for June.
- Six large strikes (involving 5,000 workers or more) were in effect in July 1978 (table 2). These disputes accounted for 20 percent of all workers involved in stoppages and 30 percent of all days idle this month. In July 1977, large stoppages accounted for 34 percent of all workers engaged in strikes and 37 percent of all idleness.

Workers involved and idleness for the 5-day Postal Service stoppages are not available.

Stoppages beginning in July

- An estimated 463 strikes began in July, compared with 545 during June and 552 in July 1977.
- Some 211,000 workers walked off their jobs in July, 32,000 less than in July 1977 and the lowest July total since 1973.
- For the first 7 months of 1978, there were 2,923 strikes, the lowest 7-month total recorded in 11 years.

Days of idleness as a percent of estimated total working time is derived by dividing total estimated days of idleness by total estimated working time available. Worktime available is the product of the number of working days during the month and estimated employment in the total economy.

Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods to July 1978

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
					In effect during month or year	
	Beginning in month or year	In effect during month	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
First 7 Months						
1968	3,187	3,356	1,852	1,940	33,773	.33
1969	3,557	3,726	1,586	1,665	25,685	.24
1970	3,617	3,796	1,816	2,015	31,332	.29
1971	3,510	3,741	2,449	2,534	25,669	.24
1972	3,201	3,417	1,110	1,225	18,113	.17
1973	3,232	3,393	1,309	1,374	14,778	.13
1974	4,002	4,196	1,840	1,902	29,741	.25
1975	3,151	3,392	1,065	1,111	18,259	.16
1976	3,388	3,662	1,482	1,541	20,255	.17
1977	3,366	3,635	1,384	1,421	17,409	.14
1978	2,923	3,046	926	1,158	24,046	.19
July 1968	520	880	202	465	4,612	.30
1969	528	883	255	462	4,311	.27
1970	585	989	242	467	5,112	.32
1971	499	938	748	938	7,895	.52
1972	404	706	130	384	3,437	.23
1973	509	860	208	324	2,996	.19
1974	683	1,199	364	667	8,954	.51
1975	518	899	231	382	4,465	.26
1976	505	960	292	490	5,145	.30
1977 1/ January	385	654	120	157	1,204	.07
February	310	673	175	196	1,429	.09
March	409	841	236	263	2,204	.12
April	634	952	187	260	2,676	.15
May	496	1,069	226	341	3,440	.20
June	580	1,030	197	288	2,874	.15
July	552	944	243	283	3,582	.21
August	436	912	163	278	3,805	.20
September	660	919	197	268	3,258	.18
October	561	880	203	251	3,529	.22
November	392	767	114	249	3,574	.20
December	185	559	239	266	4,425	.25
1978 1/						
January	271	394	87	318	4,689	.26
February	267	449	70	329	4,221	.26
March	349	527	126	367	4,290	.22
April	460	670	132	190	2,055	.12
May	568	835	171	307	3,072	.16
June	545	859	130	228	2,724	.14
July	463	810	211	338	2,995	.17

---

[1] Preliminary.

All work stoppages known to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and its various cooperating agencies, involving 6 or more workers and lasting a full day or shift or longer, are included in this table. Figures on "workers involved" and "days idle" cover all workers made idle for as long as one shift in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not measure the indirect or secondary effects on other establishments or industries whose employees are made idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 2. Stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more, July 1978

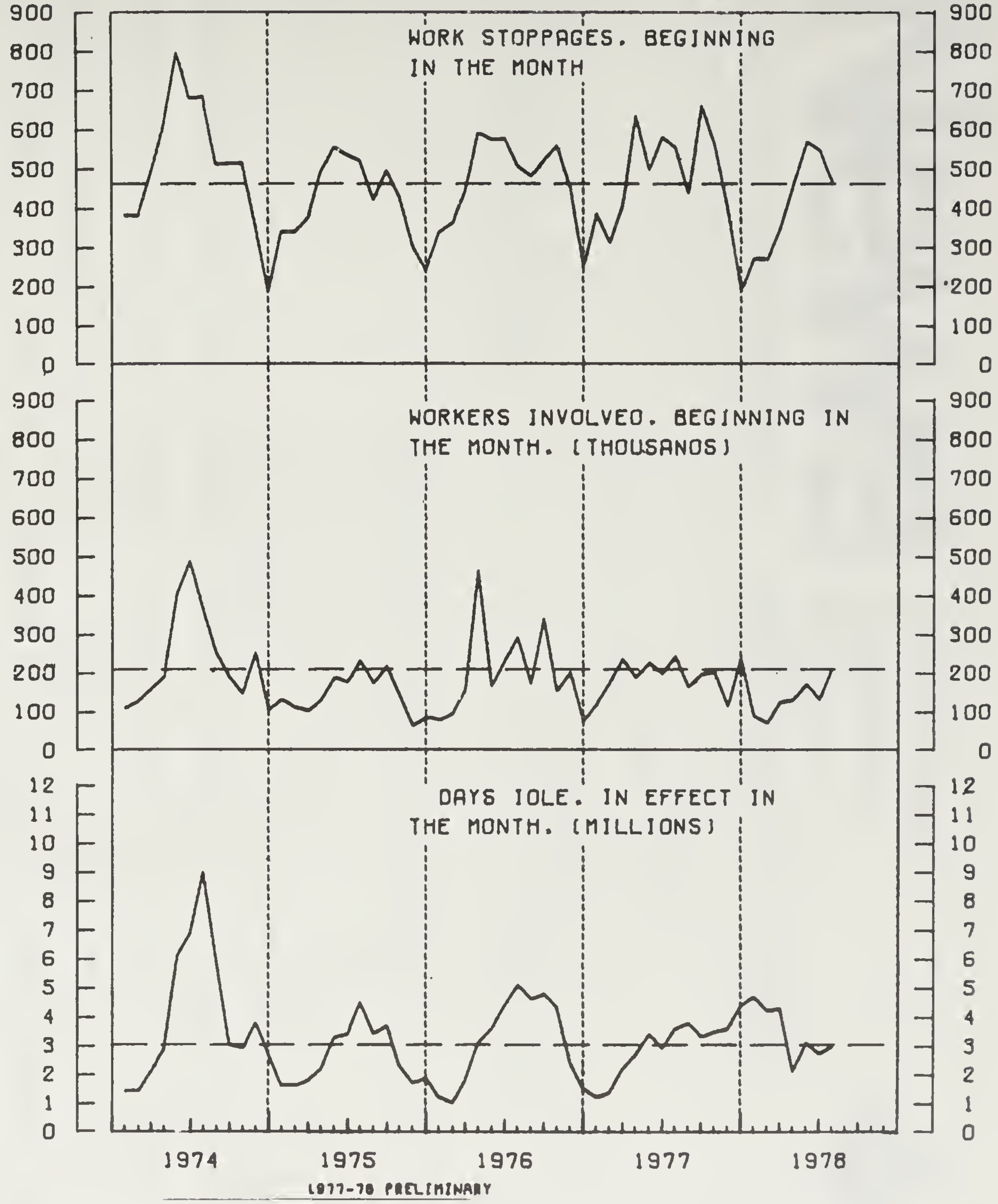
	Union 1/	Began	Ended	Workers involved 2/	Days idle 2/
United States Postal Service Interstate	APWU, NALC, & LIUNA	7/21	7/26	3/	3/
Norfolk & Western Railway Co. Interstate	BRAC	7/20	-	20,000	320,000
City of Philadelphia	AFSCME	7/14	7/21	19,500	117,000
Construction Industry, New York	IUOE, WWML, IBT (Ind.)	7/1	-	10,000	200,000
Northwest Airlines Interstate	ALPA	4/29	-	8,100	162,200
Grocery Companies Oregon	RCIU	7/1	7/23	5,400	75,600
John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co. Interstate	IWIU	7/21	-	5,000	35,000
	Total, 6 stoppages:			68,000	909,800

1/ The unions are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, except where they are noted as as independent (Ind.).

2/ Preliminary; workers and days idle are rounded to the nearest hundred.

3/ Idleness occurred at bulk mail centers in Jersey City, N.J., and San Francisco, Calif., and other scattered locations. Workers and days of idleness are not included in totals since reliable figures are not available. ✓✓

CHART 1. NUMBER OF STOPPAGES, WORKERS INVOLVED, AND DAYS IDLE, BY MONTH, 1974-78



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

FIRST CLASS MAIL

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
LAB - 441

313

Institute of Labor
& Industrial Rel. Library
504 E. Armory
Champaign, Illionis 61820

News United States
Department
of Labor

Bureau of Labor Statistics Washington, D.C. 20212

USDL: 78-669

L. LeGrande (202) 523-1091
K. D. Hoyle (202) 523-1913
Home: 333-1384

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. E.D.T.
Monday, July 31, 1978

WORK STOPPAGES: FIRST 6 MONTHS 1978

Idleness resulting from work stoppages was at a high level in the first half of 1978, largely because of the 160,000-worker bituminous coal strike, but other measures of strike activity were unusually low, the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reports. The Bureau's preliminary estimates show 21.1 million days of idleness and average strike duration of 22.2 days for the 6-month period (table 1). As a percent of estimated working time, idleness reached 0.19 percent (1.9 days idle per thousand), the highest since 1974.

Historically, strike activity accelerates in the second calendar quarter. This year, however, all second quarter measures--the number of stoppages, and of workers, involved and days of idleness--were far below those experienced in second quarter 1977. Contributing factors were the settlement of the coal strike, the relatively few construction stoppages, and the light bargaining calendar in 1978.

Total stoppages during the first 6 months

- The 2,538 strikes in effect during the first half of 1978 were the lowest number recorded in any January-June period since 1967.
- The estimated 947,000 workers involved in these stoppages in the first half were lower than in any comparable period since 1975.
- Days off the job numbered 21.1 million, an increase of 7.2 million over the first 6 months a year ago.
- Stoppages averaged 367 workers per walkout, lower than any 6-month period since 1975.
- Days idle per worker during the first half of 1978 averaged 22.2 days, much longer than the 11.7 days recorded a year ago. This was the longest average duration recorded for the first 6 months since 1946.

- Large walkouts, those involving 5,000 workers or more, accounted for about 7 of 10 workers who struck in the first half of this year. Idleness resulting from these stoppages accounted for over 50 percent of all idleness during this period. Over 85 percent of the idleness resulting from these large stoppages was attributable to the bituminous coal strike. In 1977, large stoppages accounted for 16 percent of the idleness and involved 19 percent of the strikers.

Stoppages beginning in the first 6 months

- Approximately 2,460 strikes began in the first 2 quarters of 1978, the lowest 6-month total since 1967.
- Some 715,000 workers participated in labor disputes that began in the first half of 1978, about two-fifths fewer workers than in the comparable periods of the past 2 years. Not since 1964 were so few workers idled in the first 2 quarters.

Total stoppages in June

- Idleness in June was 0.14 percent of estimated working time (1.4 days idle per thousand), compared with 0.16 percent last month and 0.15 percent in June 1977. This was the lowest June idleness rate in 15 years.
- An estimated 859 stoppages were in effect this month, 24 more than in May and the highest monthly total this year. However, it was well below the 1,030 strikes in June 1977.
- Some 228,000 workers were involved in these stoppages, less than the 307,000 workers in May and the lowest June level since 1964. The average size of disputes this month--265 workers per walkout--was the smallest average for June since 1940.
- Approximately 2.7 million days off the job were recorded this month, the lowest June idleness since 1966. Idleness was down 11 percent from May 1978 and 5 percent from June a year ago. The average duration of stoppages, at 11.9 days per worker, however, was above the 10.0 days recorded for last month and last June.

- As was true in June 1977, there were very few large stoppages (5,000 workers or more) this month. The one walkout (table 2) in June accounted for 0.5 percent of idleness during the month. The three large disputes in May accounted for 4 percent of all idleness and the six last June for 15 percent.

Stoppages beginning in June

- New stoppages in June, at 545, were 23 less than in May and 35 less than in June a year ago.
- About 130,000 workers walked off their jobs or were locked out in June, the smallest number this year since March and the lowest June level since 1964.

Days of idleness as a percent of estimated total working time is derived by dividing total estimated days of idleness by total estimated working time available. Work-time available is the product of the number of working days during the month and estimated employment in the total economy.

Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods to June 1978

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
					In effect during month or year	
	Beginning in month or year	In effect during month	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
First 6 Months						
1968	2,667	2,836	1,650	1,738	29,161	.33
1969	3,029	3,198	1,331	1,410	21,374	.24
1970	3,032	3,211	1,574	1,773	26,220	.29
1971	3,011	3,242	1,701	1,786	17,775	.20
1972	2,797	3,013	980	1,095	14,676	.16
1973	2,723	2,884	1,101	1,165	11,782	.12
1974	3,319	3,513	1,476	1,538	20,787	.21
1975	2,633	2,874	834	880	13,795	.14
1976	2,883	3,157	1,190	1,250	15,110	.14
[1] 1977	2,814	3,083	1,141	1,178	13,827	.13
[1] 1978	2,460	2,583	715	947	21,051	.19
June 1968	500	810	169	400	5,577	.40
1969	565	911	215	500	4,723	.31
1970	657	1,060	288	538	5,846	.36
1971	617	1,031	280	420	4,094	.26
1972	491	818	311	413	3,606	.22
1973	530	864	308	395	2,903	.18
1974	677	1,187	488	707	6,940	.43
1975	533	876	174	298	3,362	.20
1976	577	1,007	231	373	4,388	.24
1977 [1] January	385	654	120	157	1,204	.07
February	310	673	175	196	1,429	.09
March	409	841	236	263	2,204	.12
April	634	952	187	260	2,676	.15
May	496	1,069	226	341	3,440	.20
June	580	1,030	197	288	2,874	.15
July	552	944	243	283	3,582	.21
August	436	912	163	278	3,805	.20
September	660	919	197	268	3,258	.18
October	561	880	203	251	3,529	.22
November	392	767	114	249	3,574	.20
December	185	559	239	266	4,425	.25
1978 [1]						
January	271	394	87	318	4,689	.26
February	267	449	70	329	4,221	.26
March	349	527	126	367	4,290	.22
April	460	670	132	190	2,055	.12
May	568	835	171	307	3,072	.16
June	545	859	130	228	2,724	.14

[1] Preliminary.

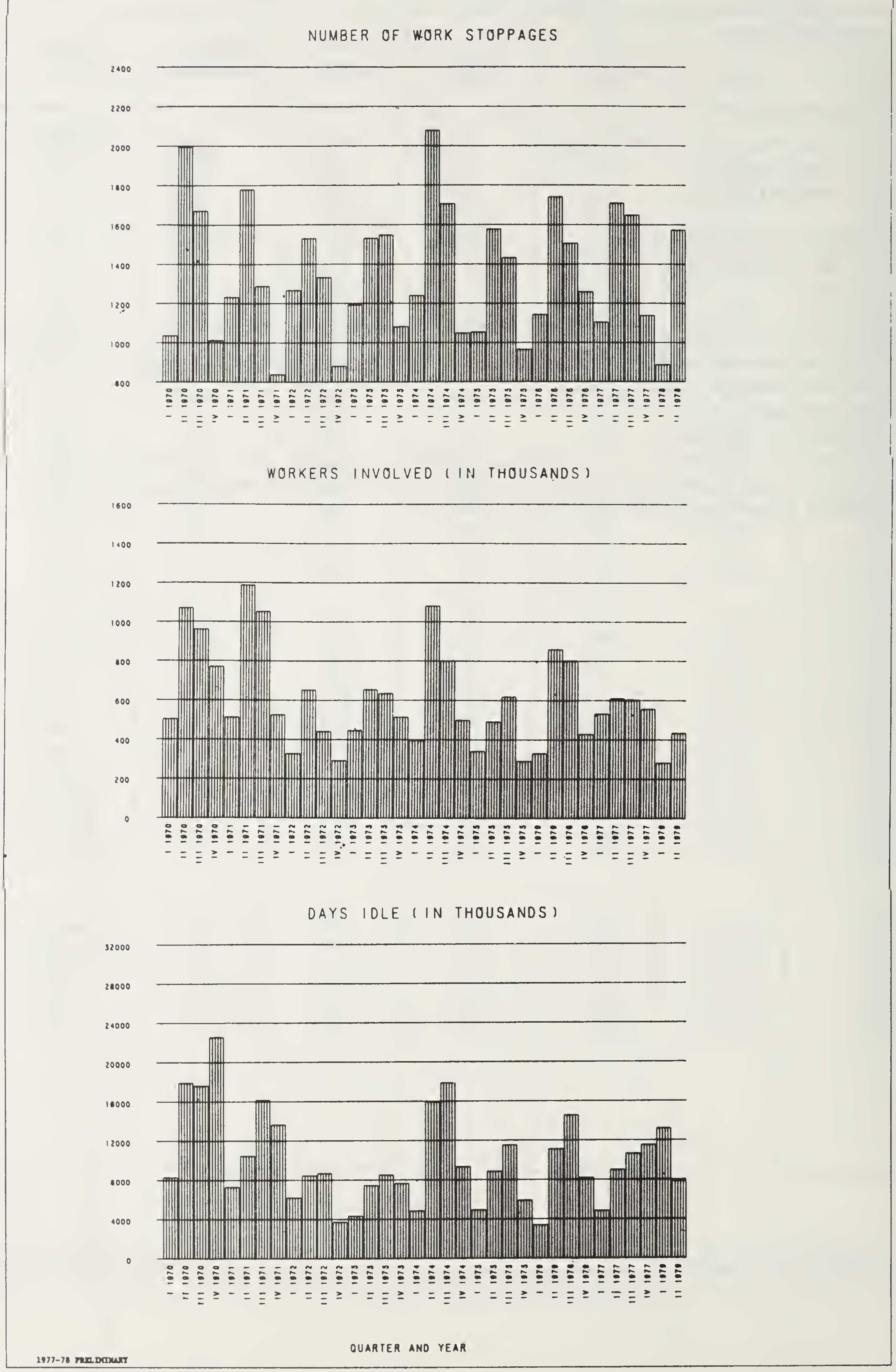
All work stoppages known to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and its various cooperating agencies, involving 6 or more workers and lasting a full day or shift or longer, are included in this table. Figures on "workers involved" and "days idle" cover all workers made idle for as long as one shift in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not measure the indirect or secondary effects on other establishments or industries whose employees are made idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 2. Stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more, June 1978

	Union 1/	Began	Ended	Workers involved 2/	Days idle 2/
Bituminous coal industry Pennsylvania	UMW (Ind.)	5/26	6/6	5,700	14,200 3/
General Electric Co. Louisville, Ky.	IAM	4/26	-	4/	4/

1/ The unions are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, except where they are noted as independent (Ind.).
2/ Preliminary.
3/ Staggered idleness.
4/ Of the 16,100 workers on strike, fewer than 5,000 tool and die workers remain out. Production and maintenance workers who were honoring picket lines returned to work on May 8.

Work stoppages by quarter, 1970-78



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

FIRST CLASS MAIL

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
LAB - 441

U.S. MAIL

313
Institute of Labor
& Industrial Rel. Library
504 E. Armory
Champaign, Illionis 61820

News
United States
Department
of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics Washington, D.C. 20212

Bureau of Labor Statistics

M. Klehm (202) 523-1091
K. Hoyle (202) 523-1913
Home: 333-1384

USDL: 78-573

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. E.D.T.
Wednesday, June 28, 1978

WORK STOPPAGES: MAY 1978

Idleness attributable to work stoppages in May rose to .16 percent of estimated total working time (1.6 days idle per thousand) from .12 percent in April, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor (table 1). The idleness rate is normally high during May because of the seasonal increase in major contract terminations and large strikes. Primarily because of relatively few large stoppages, however, the idleness rate was the lowest for May since 1973; the rate had been lower during the month in only 2 years since 1945.

Idleness for the first 5 months of 1978 averaged .20 percent of estimated total working time, the highest idleness rate for the period since 1970. The nationwide bituminous coal strike which ended in late March accounted for much of the high rate.

Total Stoppages in May

- The number of strikes in effect in May--at 835--increased for the fourth consecutive month. The number was the lowest total for the month since 1967, however.
- Approximately 307,000 workers participated in labor-management disputes in May, compared with 190,000 and 341,000 strikers during the previous month and May 1977, respectively.
- An estimated 3.1 million days off the job resulted from stoppages during the month, the lowest recorded for May since 1973.
- Strikes averaged 368 workers per walkout in May, well above the April level of 284 and the May 1977 average of 319.

- Average strike duration (as measured by days idle per worker involved) declined to 10.0 days per walkout, the lowest level for May since 1971.
- Three large stoppages (involving 5,000 workers or more) were in effect in May (table 2). These disputes, one of which continued into June, accounted for just 10 percent of all workers involved in strikes during the month and 4 percent of all days idle. In May 1977, eleven large walkouts involved 23 percent of all strikers and 25 percent of all idleness.

Stoppages beginning in May

- An estimated 568 strikes began in May, 108 more than during the prior month and 72 above the total for May 1977.
- Approximately 171,000 workers walked off their jobs in May, the highest monthly total this year but lower than the 226,000 strikers recorded for the month a year ago.

Days of idleness as a percent of estimated total working time is derived by dividing total estimated days of idleness by total estimated working time available. Worktime available is the product of the number of working days during the month and estimated employment in the total economy.

Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods to May 1978

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
					In effect during month or year	
	Beginning in month or year	In effect during month	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
First 5 Months						
1968	2,167	2,336	1,482	1,570	23,584	.32
1969	2,464	2,633	1,116	1,196	16,651	.22
1970	2,375	2,554	1,286	1,485	20,374	.27
1971	2,394	2,625	1,420	1,506	13,681	.18
1972	2,306	2,522	669	784	11,070	.14
1973	2,193	2,354	792	857	8,880	.11
1974	2,642	2,836	988	1,050	13,847	.17
1975	2,100	2,341	660	706	10,433	.13
1976	2,306	2,580	959	1,018	10,722	.13
1/ 1977	2,234	2,503	944	981	10,953	.13
1/ 1978	1,915	2,038	585	817	18,327	.20
May 1968	610	930	307	736	7,452	.49
1969	723	1,054	286	508	4,745	.32
1970	699	1,050	331	675	6,651	.46
1971	612	957	727	818	4,000	.28
1972	541	860	155	249	2,604	.16
1973	536	837	184	257	2,709	.16
1974	795	1,191	405	524	6,050	.34
1975	555	850	187	265	3,319	.20
1976	572	921	164	295	3,597	.22
1977 1/ January	385	654	120	157	1,204	.07
February	310	673	175	196	1,429	.09
March	409	841	236	263	2,204	.12
April	634	952	187	260	2,676	.15
May	496	1,069	226	341	3,440	.20
June	580	1,030	197	288	2,874	.15
July	552	944	243	283	3,582	.21
August	436	912	163	278	3,805	.20
September	660	919	197	268	3,258	.18
October	561	880	203	251	3,529	.22
November	392	767	114	249	3,574	.20
December	185	559	239	266	4,425	.25
1978 1/						
January	271	394	87	318	4,689	.26
February	267	449	70	329	4,221	.26
March	349	527	126	367	4,290	.22
April	460	670	132	190	2,055	.12
May	568	835	171	307	3,072	.16

---

[1] Preliminary.

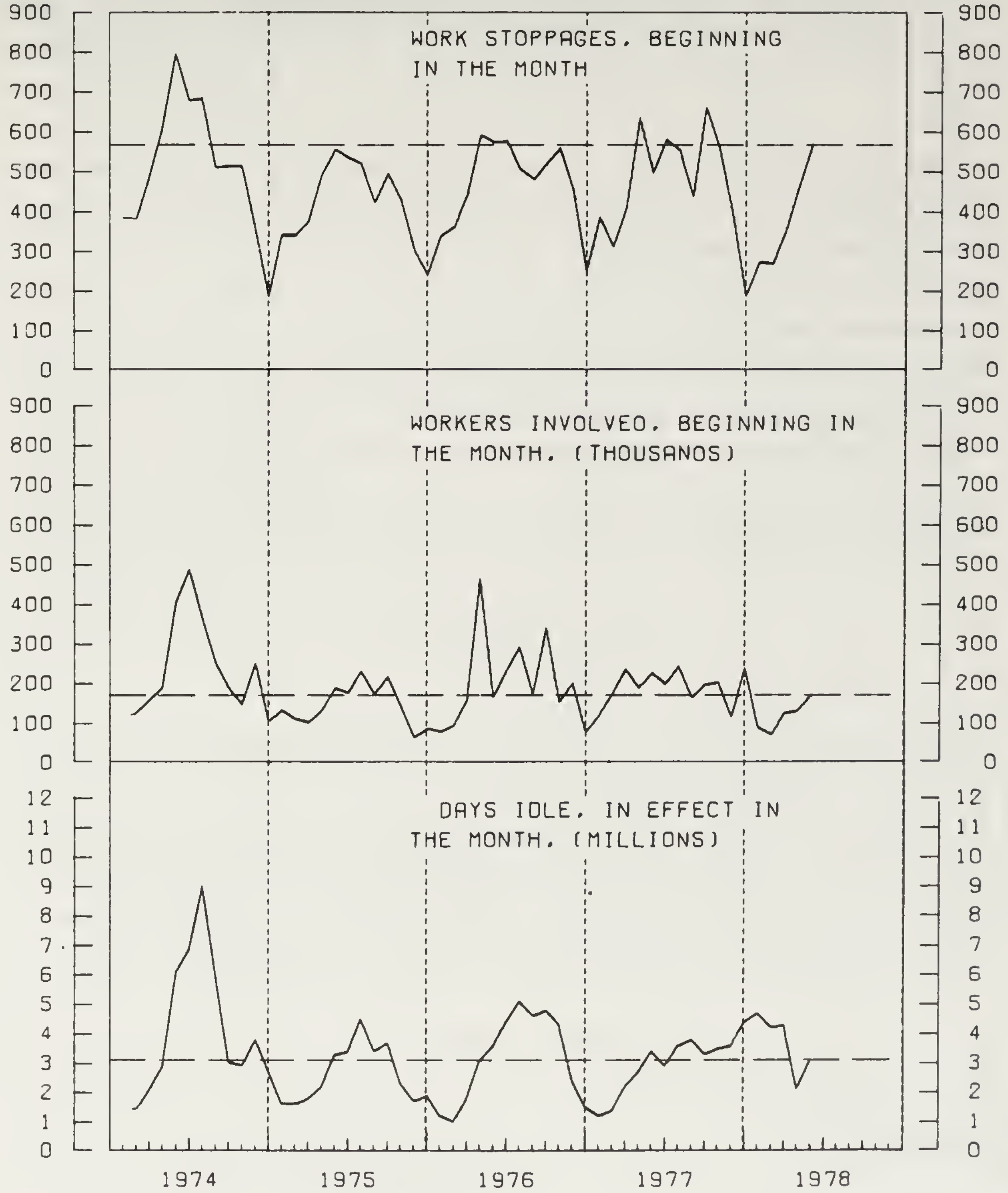
All work stoppages known to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and its various cooperating agencies, involving 6 or more workers and lasting a full day or shift or longer, are included in this table. Figures on "workers involved" and "days idle" cover all workers made idle for as long as one shift in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not measure the indirect or secondary effects on other establishments or industries whose employees are made idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 2. Stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more, May 1978

	Union 1/	Began	Ended	Workers involved 2/	Days idle 2/
General Electric Co. Louisville, Ky.	IAM	4/26	--	16,100	85,090 3/
Construction Industry Denver, Col.	CJA, OPCM, LIUNA,BMP, WWMI	5/1	5/7	10,000	30,500 3/
Construction Industry Denver and West Colorado	CJA	5/8	5/10	5,900	17,700
		Totals:		32,000	133,290

1/ The unions are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, except where they are noted as independent (Ind.).
2/ Preliminary.
3/ Staggered idleness.

CHART 1. NUMBER OF STOPPAGES, WORKERS INVOLVED, AND DAYS IDLE, BY MONTH, 1974-78



1977-78 PRELIMINARY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

FIRST CLASS MAIL

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
LAB - 441

Institute of Labor 313
& Industrial Rel. Library
504 E. Armory
Champaign, Illinois 61820

News United States Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics Washington, D.C. 20212

Bureau of Labor Statistics

C. Janus (202) 523-1755
K. Hoyle (202) 523-1913
Home: 333-1384

USDL: 78-484

FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. E.D.T.
Friday, May 26, 1978

WORK STOPPAGES: APRIL 1978

With the settlement of the nationwide bituminous coal strike in March, idleness attributable to work stoppages declined to .12 percent of estimated working time (1.2 working days idle per thousand) in April, according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. Except for the .11 percent of estimated working time in 1973, this was the lowest April rate recorded in the past decade.

Idleness for the first 4 months of 1978 averaged .22 percent of estimated total working time, the highest idleness rate for this period since 1970.

Total Stoppages in April

- An estimated 670 stoppages were in effect in April, more than in any previous month this year, but the lowest April total since 1967.
- Some 190,000 workers participated in stoppages this month, compared with 367,000 and 260,000 workers in March 1978 and in April 1977, respectively.
- About 2.1 million days off the job resulted from labor-management disputes in April, the lowest number of days idle for this month since 1973.
- Stoppages averaged 284 workers per walkout in April, substantially below the March level of 696, but marginally higher than a year ago.
- Average strike duration (as measured by days of idleness per workers involved) declined to 10.8 from 11.7 days per walkout in March. Strikes were the longest for the month, however, since 1950.
- Six large stoppages (involving 5,000 workers or more) were in effect in April (table 2). These disputes accounted for 29 percent of all workers involved in stoppages this month and 13 percent of all days idle. Only one of these stoppages continued into May. In April 1977, large stoppages involved 8 percent of all strikers and 10 percent of all idleness.

Stoppages beginning in April

- Some 460 strikes began in April, compared with 349 during March and 634 in April 1977.
- An estimated 132,000 workers walked off their jobs in April, 55,000 less than April 1977 and the lowest April total since 1975.

Days of idleness as a percent of estimated total working time is derived by dividing total estimated days of idleness by total estimated working time available. Worktime available is the product of the number of working days during the month and estimated employment in the total economy.

Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods to April 1978

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
					In effect during month or year	
	Beginning in month or year	In effect during month	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
First 4 Months						
1968----------	1,557	1,726	1,175	1,262	16,182	.28
1969----------	1,741	1,910	830	909	11,907	.20
1970----------	1,676	1,855	955	1,154	13,724	.23
1971----------	1,782	2,013	693	779	9,681	.16
1972----------	1,765	1,981	514	629	8,466	.14
1973----------	1,657	1,818	608	673	6,171	.10
1974----------	1,847	2,041	583	646	7,796	.12
1975----------	1,545	1,786	473	519	7,114	.11
1976----------	1,734	2,008	795	854	7,125	.11
1/ 1977----------	1,738	2,007	718	755	7,513	.11
2/ 1978----------	1,347	1,470	414	646	15,255	.22
April 1968----------	505	748	537	657	5,677	.38
1969----------	578	831	310	462	3,755	.24
1970----------	640	884	451	523	5,431	.34
1971----------	550	859	181	269	2,389	.15
1972----------	498	759	187	257	2,258	.15
1973----------	465	728	162	206	1,832	.11
1974----------	607	918	190	278	2,945	.17
1975----------	491	751	131	205	2,177	.13
1976----------	591	894	465	530	3,133	.18
1977 1/						
January	385	654	120	157	1,204	.07
February	310	673	175	196	1,429	.09
March	409	841	236	263	2,204	.12
April	634	952	187	260	2,676	.15
May	496	1,069	226	341	3,440	.20
June	580	1,030	197	288	2,874	.15
July	552	944	243	283	3,582	.21
August	436	912	163	278	3,805	.20
September	660	919	197	268	3,258	.18
October	561	880	203	251	3,529	.22
November	392	767	114	249	3,574	.20
December	185	559	239	266	4,425	.25
1978 1/						
January	271	394	87	318	4,689	.26
February	267	449	70	329	4,221	.26
March	349	527	126	367	4,290	.22
April	460	670	132	190	2,055	.12

1/ Revised.
2/ Preliminary.

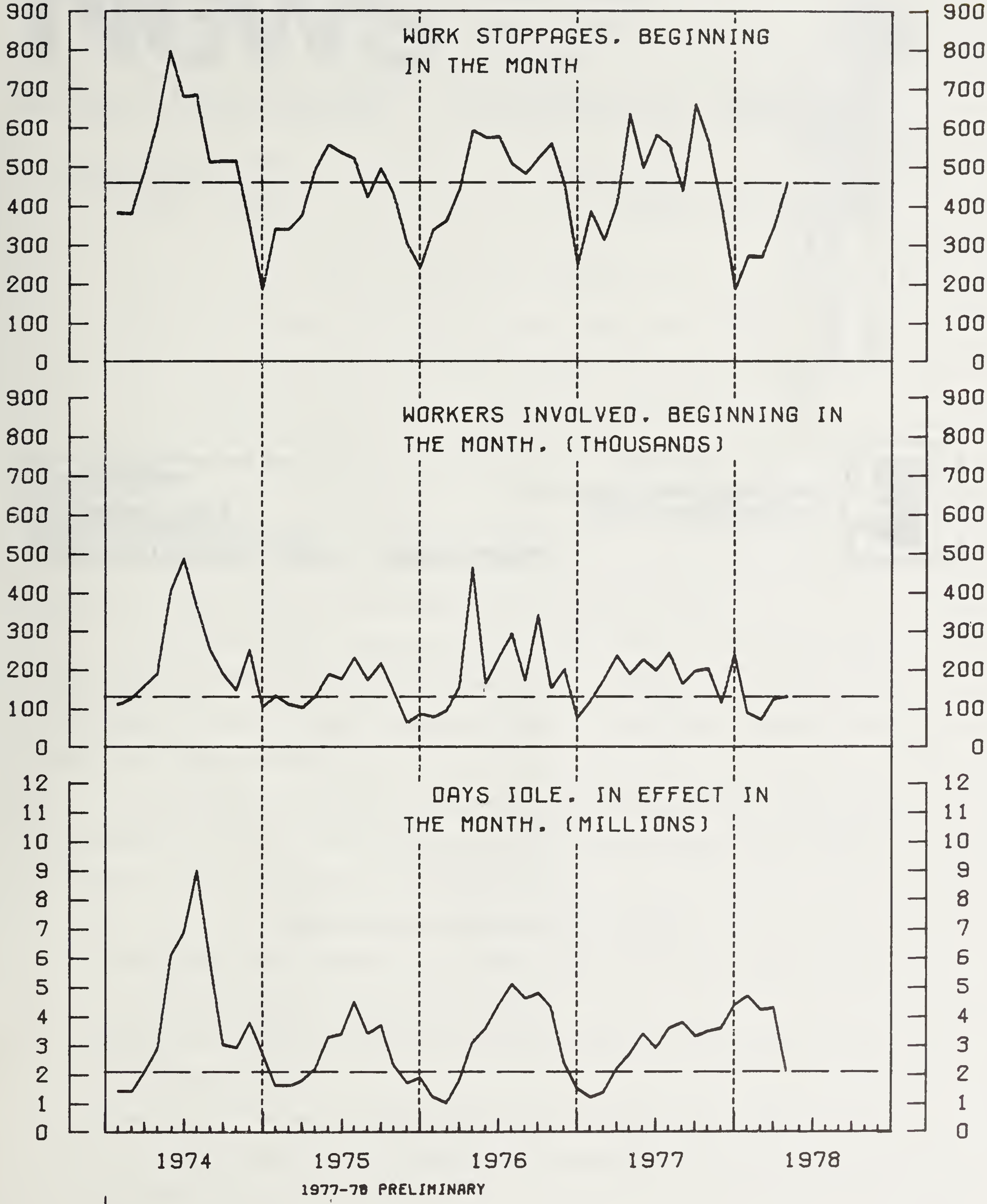
All work stoppages known to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and its various cooperating agencies, involving 6 or more workers and lasting a full day or shift or longer, are included in this table. Figures on "workers involved" and "days idle" cover all workers made idle for as long as one shift in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not measure the indirect or secondary effects on other establishments or industries whose employees are made idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more, April 1978

Company	Union1/	Began	Ended	Workers involved2/	Days idle2/
General Electric Co.-------------- Louisville, Ky.	IAM	4/26	--	16,100	48,300
Bituminous Coal Contractors------- Interstate	UMW (Ind.)	3/25	4/4	10,000	20,000
Metropolitan New York Nursing Home Association--------------- New York, N.Y.	SEIU	4/4	4/7	10,000	40,000
McDonnell Douglas Corp.----------- Interstate	UAW (Ind.)	1/14	4/13	8,000	72,000
Construction Industry------------ Beaumont, Texas	IBT (Ind.)	4/3	4/17	6,000	66,000
Pullman Inc., Pullman-Standard Division----------------------- Interstate	IAM & USA	10/1/77	4/4	5,900	11,700
			Totals:	56,000	258,000

1/ The unions are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, except where they are noted as independent (Ind.)
2/ Preliminary.

CHART 1. NUMBER OF STOPPAGES, WORKERS INVOLVED, AND DAYS IDLE, BY MONTH, 1974-78



1977-78 PRELIMINARY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

FIRST CLASS MAIL

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
LAB - 441

U.S. MAIL

Institute of Labor 313
& Industrial Rel. Library
504 E. Armory
Champaign, Illionis 61820

News
United States
Department
of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics
Washington, D.C. 20212

E. Becker (202) 523-1858
K. Hoyle (202) 523-1913
Home: 333-1384

USDL: 78-402
FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. E.S.T.
Thursday, April 27, 1978

WORK STOPPAGES: FIRST 3 MONTHS 1978

Strongly influenced by the 160,000 coal-miner strike, which spanned almost the entire first quarter, strike- induced idleness moved to 0.25 percent of working time (2.5 days per thousand) for the quarter, according to preliminary estimates by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. This year's first quarter idleness rate was the highest since 1950 when it was almost three times as great. In absolute terms, there were more days idle, 13.2 million, during the first quarter than at any comparable period since 1950, and it was only the third time in more than 30 years that quarterly idleness exceeded 10 million days.

Fewer strikes, 1,010, occurred during the first quarter than during any comparable period since 1966, but the average number of workers involved per strike, 509, was the highest since 1970. Average duration, 25.7 days idle per worker, also was higher than at any time since 1950.

Strike indices, historically, are low during the first quarter. Because of the very strong influence of the coal strike, only one of the three major work stoppage indicators--number of stoppages--followed this pattern.

Total stoppages during the first 3 months

- An estimated 1,010 stoppages were in effect during the first quarter of 1978, 363 fewer than in the same period of 1977.
- Approximately 514,000 workers were involved in these stoppages, compared with 568,000 a year ago.
- Some 13.2 million days off the job due to work stoppages were recorded this quarter, about 8.4 million more than a year ago and the highest figure in almost 30 years.
- Idleness in large disputes (those involving 5,000 workers or more) accounted for

approximately 78 percent of the days away from the job in 1978, compared with 13 percent in 1977. Workers in large strikes were 35 percent of all strikers in 1978.

Stoppages beginning in the first 3 months

- Some 887 strikes began in the first quarter of 1978, almost 20 percent fewer than than in 1977 and the lowest total since 1966. The 282,000 workers idled by these disputes was the lowest number for any first quarter since 1964.

Total stoppages in March

- Idleness resulting from work stoppages in March was 0.22 percent of estimated total working time (2.2 days working days idle per thousand), compared with 0.26 percent in February 1978 and 0.12 percent in March 1977.
- Approximately 527 stoppages were in effect this month, 78 more than in February but the lowest March total since 1965. Some 367,000 workers were involved in these stoppages, 38,000 more than the previous month and the highest March level since 1970.
- Approximately 4.3 million days off the job were recorded in March, about 70,000 more than in February, and the highest March level since 1948. The principal reason for the high March figure is the inclusion of more than 3 million days of idleness directly attributable to the coal strike.
- Four large strikes in effect in March accounted for 55 percent of all workers who walked off their jobs and 78 percent of all idleness. Of the four, two in the coal industry accounted for 51 percent of all workers who struck and 70 percent of all idleness.

Stoppages beginning in March

- Some 349 stoppages began in March, 82 more than in February but 60 fewer than a year ago. The number of workers involved in these walkouts increased from 69,600 in February to 125,600 in March.

Days of idleness as a percent of estimated total working time is derived by dividing total estimated days of idleness by total estimated working time available. Worktime available is the product of the number of working days during the month and estimated employment in the total economy.

Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods to March, 1978

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
					In effect during month or year	
	Beginning in month or year	In effect during month	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
First 3 Months						
1967-----	946	1,103	328	398	4,031	.10
1968-----	1,052	1,221	637	725	10,455	.24
1969-----	1,163	1,332	520	600	8,152	.19
1970-----	1,036	1,215	504	702	8,293	.19
1971-----	1,232	1,463	513	598	7,292	.16
1972-----	1,267	1,483	328	443	6,209	.14
1973-----	1,192	1,353	446	511	4,339	.09
1974-----	1,240	1,434	394	456	4,852	.10
1975-----	1,054	1,295	342	388	4,937	.10
1976-----	1,143	1,417	330	390	3,992	.08
1/ 1977-----	1,104	1,373	531	568	4,837	.09
1/ 1978-----	887	1,010	282	514	13,201	.25
March 1967-----	368	545	130	195	1,508	.10
1968-----	381	618	175	369	3,682	.26
1969-----	436	651	158	386	2,413	.16
1970-----	427	630	316	403	2,471	.16
1971-----	457	725	150	260	2,490	.15
1972-----	421	727	162	220	1,830	.11
1973-----	461	703	144	190	1,344	.08
1974-----	484	763	158	229	2,119	.13
1975-----	375	612	101	169	1,774	.11
1976-----	443	679	157	199	1,762	.10
1977 1/January	385	654	120	157	1,204	.07
February	310	673	175	196	1,429	.09
March	409	841	236	263	2,204	.12
April	634	952	187	260	2,676	.15
May	496	1,069	226	341	3,440	.20
June	580	1,030	197	288	2,874	.15
July	552	944	243	283	3,582	.21
August	436	912	163	278	3,805	.20
September	660	919	197	268	3,258	.18
October	561	880	203	251	3,529	.22
November	392	767	114	249	3,574	.20
December	185	559	239	266	4,425	.25
1978 1/						
January	271	394	87	318	4,689	.26
February	267	449	70	329	4,221	.26
March	349	527	126	367	4,290	.22

---

[1] Preliminary.

All work stoppages known to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and its various cooperating agencies, involving 6 or more workers and lasting a full day or shift or longer, are included in this table. Figures on "workers involved" and "days idle" cover all workers made idle for as long as one shift in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not measure the indirect or secondary effects on other establishments or industries whose employees are made idle as a result of material or service shortages.

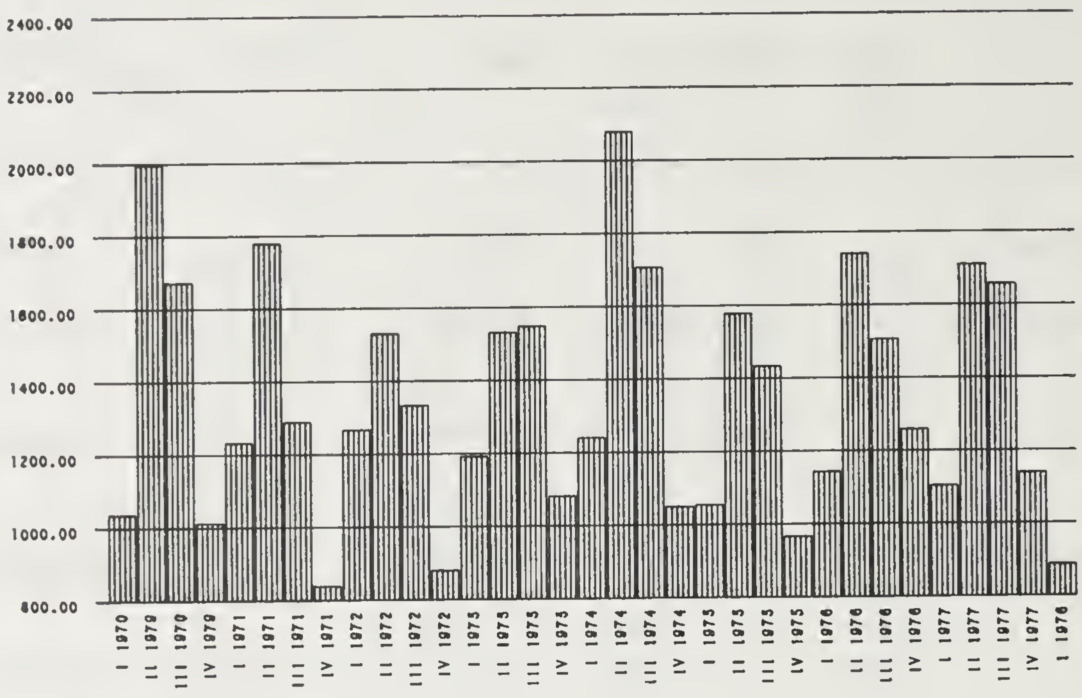
Table 2. Stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more, March 1978.

Company	Union 1/	Began	Ended	Workers involved 2/	Days idle 2/
Pullman Inc.--Interstate	IAM	10/1/77	--	5,870	135,010
Bituminous Coal Industry--Interstate	UMW(Ind.)	12/6/77	3/25/78	160,000	2,880,000
McDonnell Douglas Corp.--Interstate	UAW(Ind.)	1/14/78	--	8,000	184,000
Bituminous Coal Contractors--Interstate	UMW(Ind.)	3/25/78	--	29,000	141,000 3/
			Totals:	202,870	3,340,010

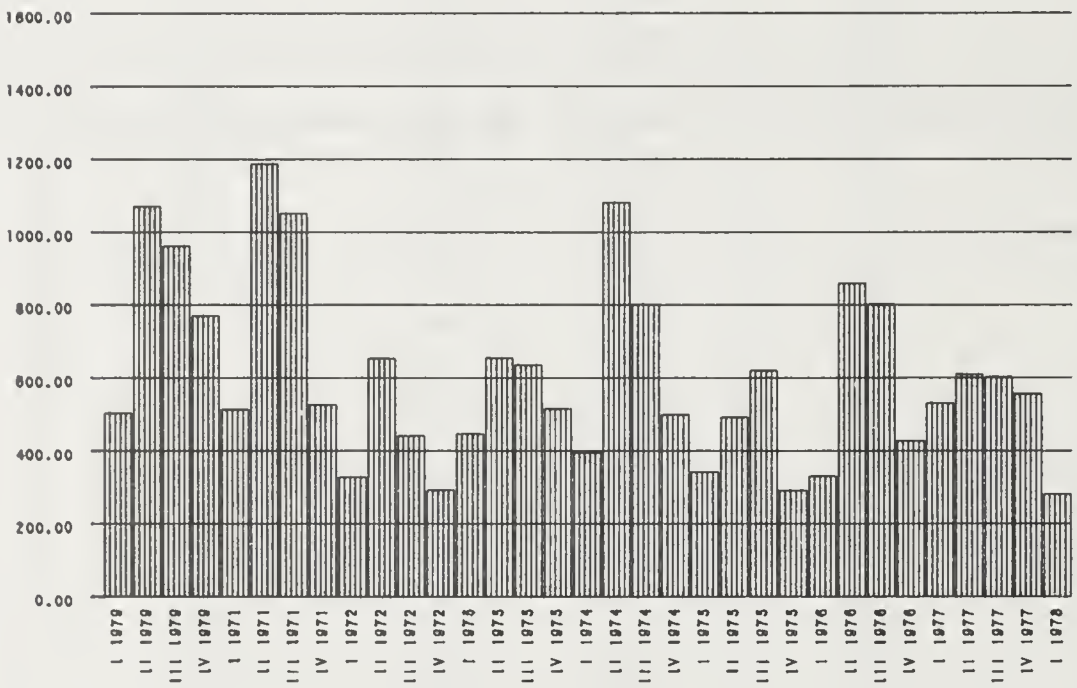
1/ The unions are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, except where they are noted as independent (Ind.)
2/ Preliminary.
3/ Staggered idleness.

Work stoppages by quarter, 1970-78

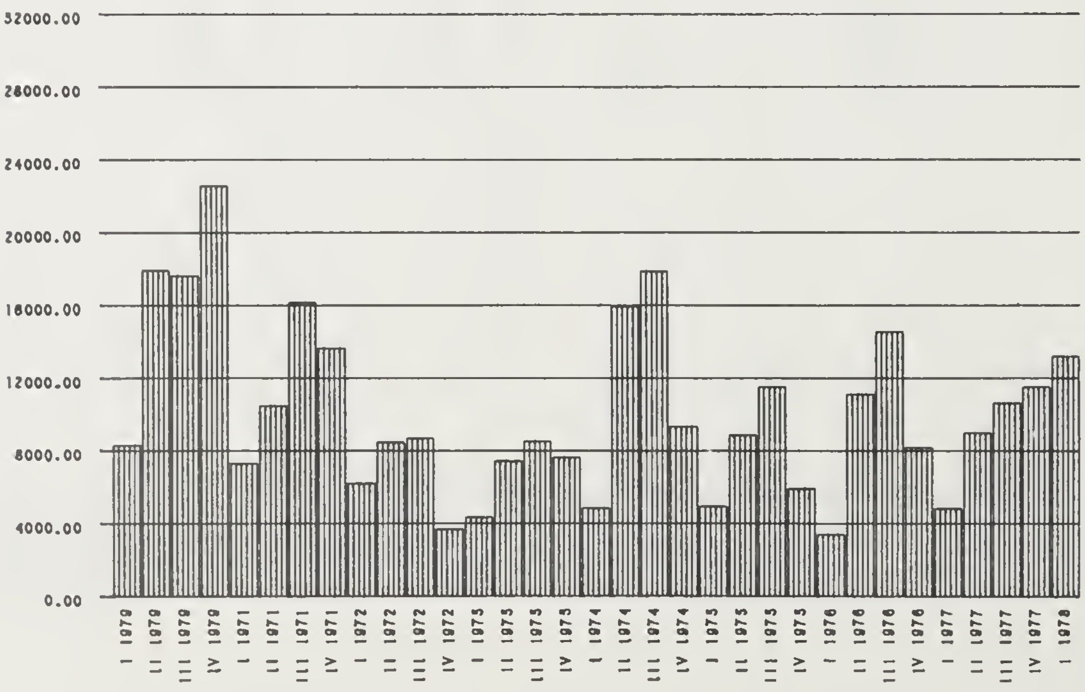
NUMBER OF WORK STOPPAGES



WORKERS INVOLVED (IN THOUSANDS)



DAYS IDLE (IN THOUSANDS)



1977-78 Preliminary

QUARTER AND YEAR

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

FIRST CLASS MAIL

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
LAB - 441

U.S. MAIL

Institute of Labor 313
& Industrial Rel. Library
504 E. Armory
Champaign, Illionis 61820

News United States Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics Washington, D.C. 20212

C. Janus (202) 523-1755
K. Holye (202) 523-1913
Home: 333-1384

USDL: 78-228
FOR RELEASE: 10:00 A.M. E.S.T.
Wednesday, March 29, 1978

WORK STOPPAGES: FEBRUARY 1978

Idleness attributable to work stoppages in February was 0.26 percent of estimated working time (2.6 working days idle per thousand), according to preliminary estimates of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor. Although the rate was the same as in January, it was the highest February rate since 1968 (table 1).

The strike in the bituminous coal industry accounted for 49 percent of all strikers and 72 percent of all idleness during the month.

Total Stoppages in February

- An estimated 449 stoppages were in effect in Feburary, more than the number recorded in January, but the lowest February total since 1966.
- Approximately 329,000 workers were involved in these strikes, compared with 318,000 and 196,000 workers participating in labor disputes in January 1978 and in February 1977, respectively,
- About 4.2 million days off the job resulted from labor-management disputes in February; the largest number of days idle for this month since 1950.
- Stoppages averaged 733 workers per walkout in February, substantially below the January level of 807. The average number of workers per walkout, however, was the highest number recorded for February since 1968.
- Average strike duration (as measured by days of idleness per worker involved) declined to 12.8 from 14.7 days per walkout in January. Strikes were the longest for the month, however, since 1950.
- Three large stoppages (involving 5,000 workers or more) were in effect in February (table 2). These disputes accounted for 53 percent of all workers involved in stoppages this month and 78 percent of all days idle. In February 1977, large stoppages involved 15 percent of all strikers and accounted for 25 percent of all idleness. All three stoppages continued into March.

Stoppages beginning in February

- Some 267 strikes began in February, compared with 271 during January 1978 and 310 in February 1977.
- An estimated 70,000 workers walked off their jobs in February, 105,000 less than February 1977 and the lowest February total since 1965.

Days of idleness as a percent of estimated total working time is derived by dividing total estimated days of idleness by total estimated working time available. Worktime available is the product of the number of working days during the month and estimated employment in the total economy.

Table 2 Work stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more, February 1978

Company	Union 1/	Began	Ended	Workers involved 2/	Days Idle 2/
Bituminous Coal Industry Interstate	UMW (Ind.)	12/6/77	--	160,000	3,040,000
McDonnell Douglas Corp. Interstate	UAW (Ind.)	1/14/78	--	8,000	152,000
Pullman Inc., Pullman-Standard Division Interstate	USA	10/1/77	--	5,900	111,500
		Totals		173,900	3,303,500

1/ The unions are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, except where they are noted as independent (Ind.).
2/ Preliminary.

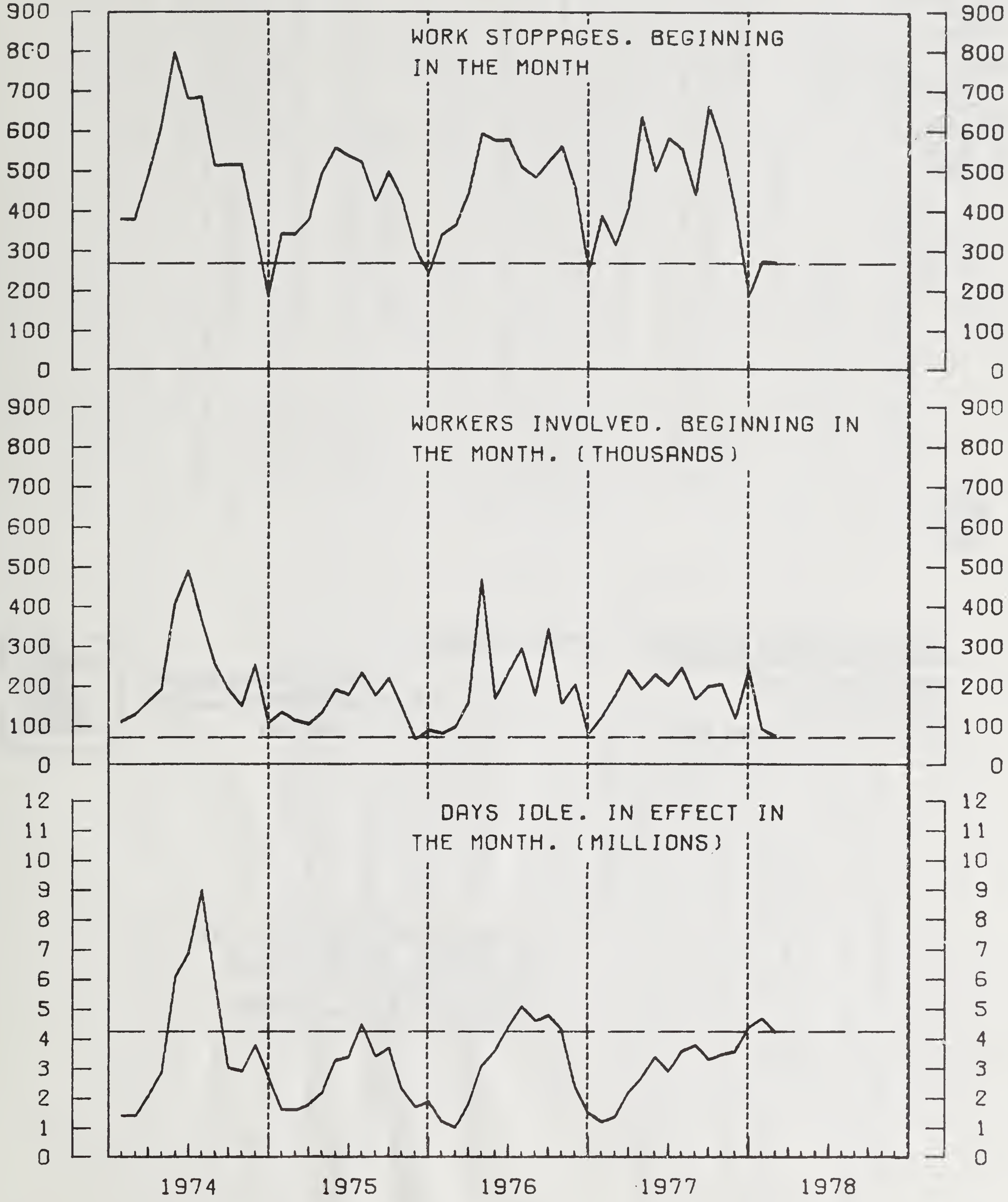
Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods to February 1978.

Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
					In effect during month or year	
	Beginning in month or year	In effect during month	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
First 2 Months						
1969-----	727	896	362	441	5,739	.20
1970-----	609	788	187	386	5,822	.20
1971-----	775	1,006	363	448	4,803	.17
1972-----	846	1,062	166	281	4,379	.15
1973-----	731	892	302	367	2,995	.10
1974-----	756	450	236	299	2,733	.09
1975-----	679	920	241	287	3,162	.10
1976-----	700	974	173	232	2,230	.07
1/ 1977-----	695	964	295	332	2,633	.08
2/ 1978-----	538	661	156	388	8,910	.26
Feburary						
1968-----	357	569	275	451	4,104	.29
1969-----	385	578	177	340	2,566	.18
1970-----	330	529	116	330	2,111	.15
1971-----	359	632	128	206	1,935	.14
1972-----	419	675	86	183	1,849	.13
1973-----	349	560	151	229	1,335	.09
1974-----	377	589	127	167	1,370	.09
1975-----	339	540	109	171	1,557	.11
1976-----	362	615	96	139	1,030	.07
1977 1/ January	385	654	120	157	1,204	.07
February	310	673	175	196	1,429	.09
March	409	841	236	263	2,204	.12
April	634	952	187	260	2,676	.15
May	496	1,069	226	341	3,440	.20
June	580	1,030	197	288	2,874	.15
July	552	944	243	283	3,582	.21
August	436	912	163	278	3,805	.20
September	660	919	197	268	3,258	.18
October	561	880	203	251	3,529	.22
November	392	767	114	249	3,574	.20
December	185	559	239	266	4,425	.25
1978 2/ January	271	394	87	318	4,689	.26
February	267	449	70	329	4,221	.26

[1] Preliminary., Revised.
2/ Preliminary.

All work stoppages known to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and its various cooperating agencies, involving 6 or more workers and lasting a full day or shift or longer, are included in this table. Figures on "workers involved" and "days idle" cover all workers made idle for as long as one shift in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not measure the indirect or secondary effects on other establishments or industries whose employees are made idle as a result of material or service shortages.

CHART 1. NUMBER OF STOPPAGES, WORKERS INVOLVED, AND DAYS IDLE, BY MONTH, 1974-78



1977-78 PRELIMINARY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

FIRST CLASS MAIL

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
LAB - 441

U.S. MAIL

Institute of Labor 313
& Industrial Rel. Library
504 E. Armory
Champaign, Illionis 61820

News United States Department of Labor
Bureau of Labor Statistics Washington, D.C. 20212

M. Klehm (202) 523-1091
K. Hoyle (202) 523-1913
Home: 333-1384

USDL: 78-144
FOR RELEASE: 11:00 A.M. E.S.T.
Tuesday February 28, 1978

WORK STOPPAGES: JANUARY 1978

Idleness attributable to work stoppages in January rose to .26 percent of estimated total working time (2.6 working days idle per thousand), according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor (table 1). This was the highest idleness rate for the month since 1950.

Although strike activity is customarily lower in the early months of the year than during the spring and summer months when construction and other industry contracts expire, the January rate was the highest for any month since October 1976. The bituminous coal dispute, involving 160,000 mineworkers, was responsible for about three-fourths of all idleness during the month and thus dominated all work stoppage totals and trends.

However, the number of new stoppages in January was substantially lower than the January 1977 levels.

Total Stoppages in January

- An estimated 394 stoppages, involving 318,000 workers, were in effect in January.
- Approximately 4.7 million days of idleness resulted from strikes this month. During the post-war period, days away from the job have been higher in January only in 1946 when workers were released from war-time wage controls.
- Strikes on the average were both large and long in January, averaging 807 workers per walkout and 14.7 days idle per worker involved.
- Four large stoppages (involving 5,000 workers or more) were in effect in January (table 2). These relatively long disputes, three of which continued into February, accounted for 56 percent of all workers involved and 77 percent of all days idle during the month.

In January 1977, two large walkouts were responsible for only 12 percent and 4 percent of all of the month's strikers and days of idleness, respectively.

Stoppages Beginning in January

- An estimated 271 stoppages began in January, nearly 50 percent more than during the previous month. Nevertheless, this was the lowest January level since 1966.
- Some 87,000 workers participated in new strikes in January, about one-third the level of December 1977 and well below the 120,000 involved in strikes that began in January 1977.

Days of idleness as a percent of estimated total working time is derived by dividing total estimated days of idleness by total estimated working time available. Worktime available is the product of the number of working days during the month and estimated employment in the total economy.

Table 1. Work stoppages, selected periods to January, 1978

	Period	Number of stoppages		Workers involved in stoppages		Days idle	
						In effect during month or year	
		Beginning in month or year	In effect during month	Beginning in month or year (thousands)	In effect during month (thousands)	Number (thousands)	Percent of estimated working time
January	1967-------	286	443	94	164	1,248	.09
	1968-------	314	483	188	276	2,669	.18
	1969-------	342	511	185	264	3,173	.21
	1970-------	279	458	71	270	3,711	.25
	1971-------	416	647	235	320	2,868	.20
	1972-------	427	643	80	195	2,530	.17
	1973-------	382	543	151	216	1,660	.10
	1974-------	379	573	109	172	1,363	.08
	1975-------	340	581	132	178	1,605	.09
1976	January	338	612	77	136	1,200	.07
	February	362	615	96	139	1,030	.07
	March	443	679	157	199	1,762	.10
	April	591	894	465	530	3,133	.18
	May	572	921	164	295	3,597	.22
	June	577	1,007	231	373	4,388	.24
	July	505	960	292	490	5,145	.30
	August	480	937	171	410	4,557	.26
	September	521	972	340	466	4,848	.28
	October	559	1,024	152	429	4,348	.28
	November	452	861	201	326	2,391	.14
	December	248	607	75	168	1,459	.08
1977 1/	January	385		120		1,204	.07
	February	310		175		1,429	.09
	March	409		236		2,204	.12
	April	634		187		2,676	.15
	May	496		226		3,440	.20
	June	580	2/	197	2/	2,874	.15
	July	552		243		3,582	.21
	August	436		163		3,805	.20
	September	660		197		3,258	.18
	October	561		203		3,529	.22
	November	392		114		3,574	.20
	December	185		239		4,425	.25
1978 3/	January	271	394	87	318	4,689	.26

1/ Preliminary, revised in January 1978.

2/ Revised estimates for number of stoppages and workers involved in stoppages in effect are not available.

3/ Preliminary.

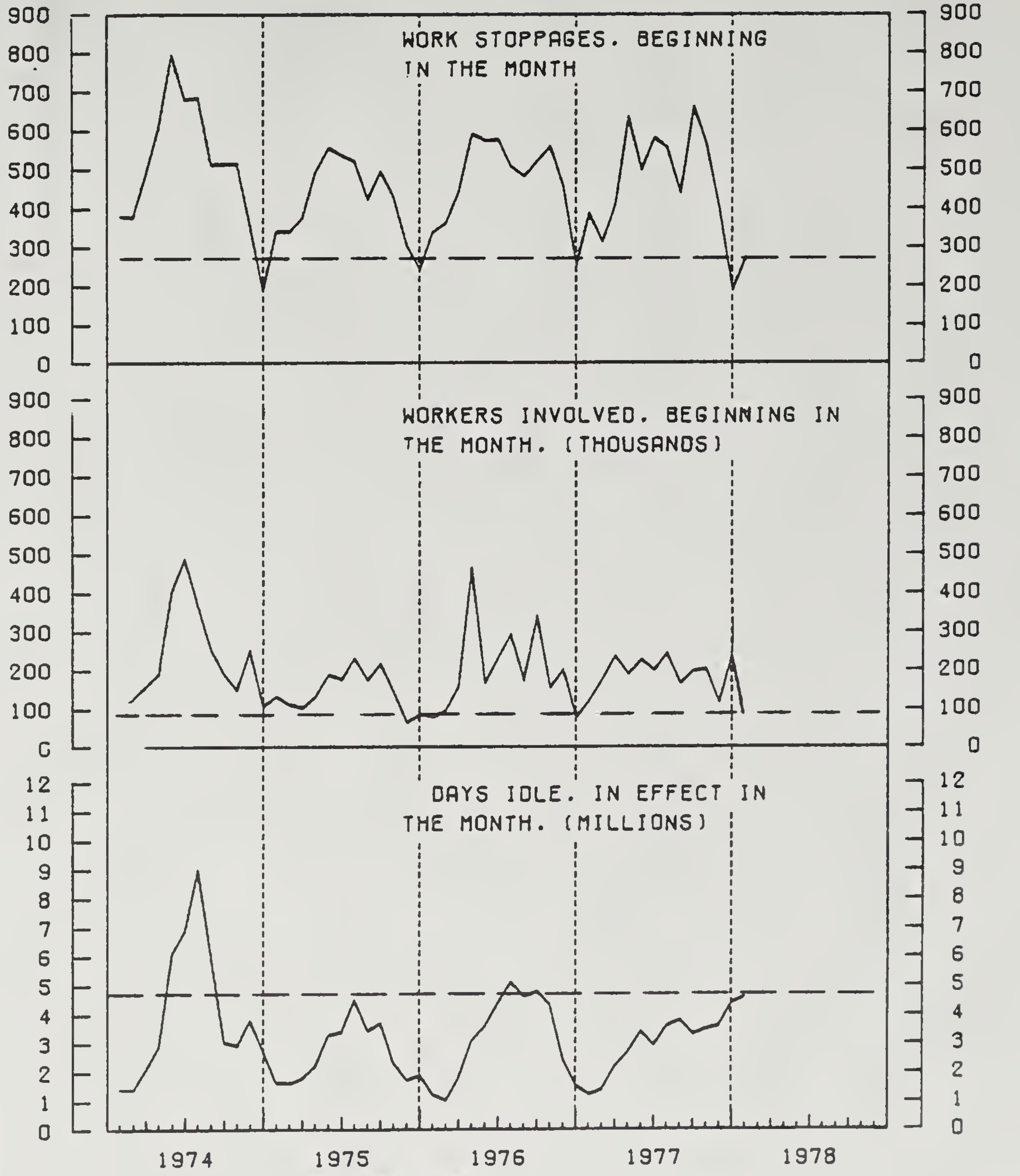
All work stoppages known to the Bureau of Labor Statistics and its various cooperating agencies, involving 6 or more workers and lasting a full day or shift or longer, are included in this table. Figures on "workers involved" and "days idle" cover all workers made idle for as long as one shift in establishments directly involved in a stoppage. They do not measure the indirect or secondary effects on other establishments or industries whose employees are made idle as a result of material or service shortages.

Table 2. Work stoppages involving 5,000 workers or more, January 1978.

Company	Union 1/	Began	Ended	Workers involved 2/	Days idle 2/
Bituminous Coal Industry Interstate	UMW (Ind.)	12/6	--	160,000	3,360,000
McDonnell Douglas Corp. Interstate	UAW (Ind.)	1/14	--	8,000	96,000
Pullman Inc., Pullman-Standard Division Interstate	USA	10/1	--	5,900	123,300
General Contractors Association of Hawaii Honolulu, Hawaii	LIUNA	1/23	1/31	5,000	35,000
		Totals		178,900	3,614,300

1/ The unions are affiliated with the AFL-CIO, except where they are noted as independent (Ind.)
2/ Preliminary.

CHART 1. NUMBER OF STOPPAGES, WORKERS INVOLVED, AND DAYS IDLE, BY MONTH, 1974-78



1977-78 PRELIMINARY

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20210

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, $300

FIRST CLASS MAIL

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
LAB - 441

U.S. MAIL

Institute of Labor 313
& Industrial Rel. Library
504 E. Armory
Champaign, Illionis 61820